



## 24° “Da Sodoma a Hollywood” Turin GLBT Film Festival 23/30 April 2009

### Ambrosio Cinecafé – Cinema Ideal Cityplex (opening and closing nights)

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of “Da Sodoma ad Hollywood” Turin International GLBT Film Festival, and the fourth edition with the **Museo Nazionale del Cinema**, as far as the organization and the administration is concerned.

Among the events of the 2009 program, along with the three international competitions, we want to stress the retrospective dedicated to **Giuseppe Patroni Griffi** (novelist, playwright, theatre and cinema director), the **Carte Blanche to Ferzan Ozpetek** (where the director will introduce the most important films of his life) with **Franca Valeri** as guest and a tribute to **Filippo Timi**, a unique personality of Italian cinema, theater and literature. Other tributes will be paid to **Adolfo Arrieta**, director, painter and a pioneer of the European GLBT cinema; to **Guy Gilles**, experimenter of poetical works; to **Shu-Lea Cheang**, an interesting conceptual Taiwanese artist “radical&sex&punk”; to the Australian writer **Dorothy Porter** (featuring a reading of some extracts from the novel in verse *The monkey mask* by actress **Valeria Solarino**).

A few glimpses are dedicated to cult TV programs such as **Society** (South Africa) and **Sugar Rush**, (UK) both focused on lesbian issues. In addition, two events will remember **the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall** and the **40 years from Stonewall clashes in New York**.

Once again, the cross issues of many films and documentaries are AIDS fight and difficulties encountered by GLBT community in countries where homosexuality is still a taboo subject. The festival will also feature light comedies from the USA and Spain, or considerations about the recent historical-political context.

### GRAN SOIREE: OPENING NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 9.30 pm – Cinema Ideal Cityplex

With the participation of **Lucia Ocone**, featuring **Franca Valeri**

The 2009 edition will start with the Italian première of the exhilarating sit-com from Spain **Fuera de carta** – Out of menu - by Nacho G. Velilla (2008). The film, opening in Italy the following day, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, is the directorial debut of a cult sit-com director for Spanish TV. This is a story of family conflicts, which sprang from the Spanish sit-com world as a surprise. Set among romanticism and modern spirit, the film tells the story of Maxi, the owner of a chic restaurant in Chueca - a district of Madrid well-known for the great number of gay inhabitants. His life flows quietly between a professional goals (adding another star in the famous Michelin guide) and his sentimental gay life. However, his life changes due to the birth of his two children, born from an accidental marriage, and due to the arrival of his new neighbour (a charming soccer player from Argentina)...

**Attending the screening: Nacho G. Velilla, Javier Cámara (actor), Andrea Cirila (Bolero Film)**

### CLOSING NIGHT and AWARDING

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30 pm – Cinema Ideal Cinaplex

Gran finale with the award ceremony presented by **Vladimir Luxuria**, with musical breaks taken from her/his last show *Stasera ve le canto* (accompanied at the piano by Gabriele Cofrancesco, directed by Roberto Piana). Participating guests: **Georgianne Kalweit, Pia Tuccitto**.

During the closing night music will play an important role: Georgianne Kalweit – singer of the Italian group Delta V – will perform *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* as a tribute to Judy Garland, while Pia Tuccitto – Italian rock singer-songwriter – will perform some of her songs chosen and interpreted by Vasco Rossi and Patty Pravo.

The award ceremony will be followed by the screening of the out-of-competition movie: **Mentiras y gordas** – *Sex, Party and Lies* – by Alfonso Albacete and David Menkes, again from Spain. Just after two weeks from the Spanish premiere, the brand new film by Albacete and Menkes (winners of the 2000 edition of the Festival) has already been a blockbuster. The film tells the story of a group of young friends on holiday, trying to pave the way for their future, among secrets, lies, sex, mess, mad nights and parties. Another exhilarating, “young and nighty” comedy coming from Almodovar’s land.

## FESTIVAL SECTIONS

### International Competitions

Three competitive sections with three international juries:

**Feature film competition:** - Ottavio Mai Award (5000 Euros)

**Documentary competition** - (2500 Euros)

**Short film competition** - (1500 Euros)

An audience prize will be awarded to the best film of each section.

The International jury includes **Harry Baer**, German actor known especially as a member of the artistic group collaborating with R.W. Fassbinder right from the first film *Katzelmacher* in 1969, and working soon after also behind the camera (especially in *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, *Lili Marlène* and the last magnificent *Querelle*). Another important member is **Donatella Maiorca**, director of the film *Viol@* (produced in 1999), and producer of some tv series such as (*Un posto al sole*, *La squadra*) and the recent *Viola di mare*, with *Valeria Solarino* who interprets the part of a lesbian woman in 19<sup>th</sup> century Sicily.

### Nuovi Sguardi Award

Assigned by the Festival selection committee, the award will be given to either a feature film or a documentary reflecting the evolution of Queer Cinema for its capability to navigate and combine diverse visual languages and to incorporate identity issues within various different film genres.

### Out of Competition and Panorama

The Out of Competition section features premieres by internationally acclaimed directors or some titles to be released in Italy soon.

Three non-competitive sections for feature films, shorts and documentaries will offer an exhaustive "panorama" of the latest and most stimulating developments in GLBT film and video productions.

Among the titles shown at the festival: **Boy**, a film censored at the Singapore festival, produced by the Philippin director Auraeus Solito; **Nés en 68** by Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau (two generations face each other: the one who fought in 1968 and the one born in 1968) and **Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild** by Todd Stephens, the follow up to *Another Gay Movie*, with new crazy sexy adventures of the four protagonists.

### Retrospective - Giuseppe Patroni Griffi

Giuseppe Patroni Griffi, died in 1995, was an Italian film and theatre director, whose cinema and theatre works turned around transgression, where homosexuality often has paid an important role. His characters have always shocked with a sensual and free-libertine vision of the world, destined to subvert social taboos linked to sexuality. Included in the retrospective: his debut in 1962 with *The Sea* and *Love Circle* (1969), adapted from a theatre pièce, starring Florinda Bolkan and Jean-Louis Trintignant, which was cut by the censors, but also became a great box office success.

### Voice Over 4

The art world in the '80s of the Canadian artistic group “General Idea” and of Keith Haring; the contemporary world of German photographer Wolfgang Tillmans; lesbian pioneer filmmaker Barbara Hammer’s latest two movies; Pascal Robitaille’s latest low-budget project *L’Apesanteur*, and many other videos, documentaries and movies are shown in the section of the festival, where cinema gets contaminated with other arts and gives birth to as many different languages as the various shades of the eye are.

### Europa Mon Amour

#### **"Muscles in Skirts: The Italian Peplums"**

Following on a line of research that started two years ago with the "Spaghetti Western" movies, the Festival will focus on the so-called “Peplum movies”. Hugely popular at the time, the Italian cinema in the fifties and sixties produced an endless series of B-movies on historic themes. Muscle men, wearing short skirts and brandishing their shining short swords, whose acting was more a pretext to show off male nudity like some

American magazines such as *Beefcake* did for bodybuilders. Among the titles: Vittorio Cottafavi's *Hercules' Revenge* (1960), Sergio Leone's *The Colossus of Rhodes* (1961) and Sergio Corbucci's *The Son of Spartacus* (1962).

### **Music & Movie Icons**

#### **UK 1979-2009. From "Ashes to Ashes" to the "Common People" Generation**

30 years in music to celebrate the Queer Revolution Made in UK: from David Bowie's transgression to the new-romantic transformism of Visage; from the planetary success of the Smiths to the radio hit of *Smalltown Boy*, from the consecration to fame of Soft Cell and Pet Shop Boys, up through the '90s with the Brit-Pop era and its *Common People*, the song by Pulp against the excesses of the '80s, as well as an elegy to normal life seen as diversity.

Nowadays to follow this evolution, there are bands like Franz Ferdinand and The Rakes, in whose music whatever remaining taboos are sung with wit and irony.

### **THE EVENTS**

#### **Carte Blanche to Ferzan Ozpetek**

The director of *The Ignorant Fairies* (2001), *Saturn in Opposition* (2006) and *A Perfect Day* (2008) is invited to introduce the Festival audiences to the "**films of his life**". This selection includes big classics such as Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's *Black Narcissus* (1947), Morton DaCosta's *Auntie Mame* (1958) and Vittorio Caprioli's *Lions Lying in the Sun* (1961).

#### **Three Special Awards: Ventura Pons, Monika Treut and John Greyson**

The 2009 Festival Special Award will be given to Catalan filmmaker **Ventura Pons**, presenting his new movie *Strangers* (2008). One of the pioneers of gay cinema, Pons has made over twenty feature films, some of which have been distributed also in Italy (just to remind *Food of Love* 2002).

On the other hand *Ghosted* by **Monika Treut** aroused controversial reactions after its screening at the 2009 Berlinale. This German director, who has been working from the early 1970s (with Elfi Mikesch as director of photography), capable of redrawing the map of female characters, represents the second Special Award.

**John Greyson** is the Canadian director of *Fig Trees* (Teddy Award winner for best ocumentary at the 2009 Berlinale). He is mainly known for his strong activism to fight Aids: *Fig Trees* is indeed a documentary on pharmaceutical companies producing drugs to fight the terrible virus.

#### **20 Years from the Fall of the Berlin Wall**

Two movies to remember the life in the divided city: Wieland Speck's *Westler* (1985) and Heiner Carow's *Coming Out* (1989). There will be also Marco Wilms' *Ein Traum in Erdbeerfolie - Comrade Couture* - a unique portrait of the strange and hidden "fashion" life in the further socialist part of Germany. This event is part of the **Biennale of Democracy** that will take place in Turin, April 22-26.

#### **Stonewall: from Judy Garland to Harvey Milk**

Judy Garland made her final film appearance in Ronald Neame's *I Could Go on Singing* (1963). This is the last movie in which the beloved gay icon of that time played in. Judy Garland died on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1969, just a couple of days before the violent New York riots engaging the GLBT community and the police broke out at the Stonewall Inn, in the Greenwich Village. A few years later, the gay lobbyist **Harvey Milk** would start his battle for the civil rights with his "*Hope*" speech given in San Francisco. The Festival will present the extraordinary Oscar winning documentary made by Rob Epstein in 1985: *The Times of Harvey Milk*.

### **TRIBUTES**

#### **Filippo Timi: "Worse than being famous"**

A unique personality of Italian cinema, theater and literature, Filippo Timi is the actor in the most recent movies of Gabriele Salvatores (*As God Commands*) and Marco Bellocchio (*Vincere*). He will introduce some of his most memorable characters: Count Masoch in *L'eredità di Caino (Cain's Inheritance)* by Luca Acito and Sebastiano (a voyage in the human labyrinths of perversion and purity, inspired to the character of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, a film in which Timi left a deep sign on the general vision of the movie); Zanna

in Saverio Costanzo's second feature *In Memory of Myself* (the rebellious novice who opens the eyes of another young novice about the strange world of the Church) and the partisan facing struggle and freedom in the multi-awarded *Homo Homini Lupus* by Mattia Rovere.

**Adolfo Arrieta: *Love Delirium***

A Spanish author close to the French Nouvelle Vague, Arrieta is a painter and a great connoisseur of Jean Cocteau's works. His short movies shot in Madrid in the '60s are milestones of the Independent cinema, while *Les Intrigues de Sylvia Couski*, shot in Paris in 1974, is considered the first Parisien underground militant work. ***Tam-Tam***, 1975, gives an important image of that time, passing through life, art and desire.

**Guy Gilles: *Time Out of Time***

Guy Gilles was born in Algiers in 1938 and moved to France at the end of the '50s. Here he directed his first feature film, *Love at Sea* (1962) starring Juliette Gréco, Romy Schneider and Jean Pierre Léaud, as well as Patrick Jouané, who would become his alter-ego on screen as well as his partner in life. Marguerite Duras loved very much his second feature *Wall Engravings* (1968) and Jeanne Moreau supported him in the making of *Repeated Absences* (1972): the most autobiographical movie of this eclectic filmmaker, who worked in between cinema, painting, writing and photography.

**Dorothy Porter: *Rhymes of Cinema***

Tributed to Australian poetess Dorothy Porter, who recently passed away, this Festival section presents her work done for cinema: Julian Temple's *The Eternity Man* (2008) and Samantha Lang's *The Monkey's Mask* (2000): a lesbian noir, originally written as a novel in rhymes and later adapted to be a movie.

**She Lea Cheang: *Radical&sex&punk***

Multi-media-artist, born in Taiwan, lives in Paris. Working within the fields of netbased installations, videoart and film making, Shu Lea Cheang deals with multidisciplinary aspects and studies, paying attention to the connections between the media languages and the real world, for exploring "ethnic stereotypes, the nature and excesses of popular media, institutional - and especially governmental - power, race relations, and sexual politics" (Cheang). The Festival presents the two long feature films ***Fresh Kill*** (1994) and ***I.K.U.*** (2000), and some of her shorts made between 1995 and 2008.

**Lesbian Series: "*Sugar Rush*" and "*Society*" - UK vs South Africa**

*Sugar Rush* is one of the most popular and loved GLBT TV series. Broadcasted on Channel Four in the UK, this series has aroused controversy and many criticism for dealing with the touchy subject of teenage homosexuality: leading character Kim is only 15 years old. Never seen on any Italian TV channel, *Sugar Rush* has become a cult show within the Italian lesbian community who watches it over the internet. The Festival attention to the teenager world in cinema will now contaminate with the so-called "New Media World".

The real world of young black women is the main plot for *Society*: a South African series showing freedom after the introduction of the *Civil Union Acts* and the non-discrimination on sexual bases of the constitution issued by Nelson Mandela.

**More information and press material:**  
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