

Turin, April 15-22 2010

Silver anniversary between novelties and revolutions
Claudia Cardinale opens the Festival in Turin with "**Le Fil**"

"Dorian Gray" Lifetime Achievement Award
to **James Ivory**
designed by Ugo Nespolo

three Competition sections for three international Juries. Among them
Peter Cameron, Ivan Cotroneo and Eytan Fox

the Retrospective "**The Twenty-five movies which changed our lives** "

the **Open Eyes** tributes to
Patricia Rozema, Holly Woodlawn and Maria Beatty

the 2 Focuses: **Religions and Homophobia**

Midnight Madness

The history of **Eurovision Song Contest** through images

Electronic Transenders

Someone Likes it Book

And from this year onwards: **From Turin to Rome**

From Sodom to Hollywood - the Turin LGBT Film Festival, directed by Giovanni Minerba, celebrates its silver anniversary with many novelties and changes. Twenty five years with cinema, the gay community and the audience. The first Festival took place in 1986 and it was only a courageous small event. At that time the acronym LGBT was not part of our language and history yet. Today *Turin LGBT* is the oldest European Festival, and third in the world just after the legendary *Frameline* of San Francisco and *Outfest* of Los Angeles. A fund of experiences and ideas that kept pace with the visibility and the achievements of gay movement; a legacy which turned into historical memory; a progress which year by year, as our motto says, changed our lives. For its 25th anniversary the Festival has been partially renewed, with a new staff and a new image, created this year by the great painter and sculptor **Ugo Nespolo**.

The 25th Festival will be opened by a special guest: on **April 15 Claudia Cardinale** will open the Festival with the presentation of *Le Fil*, by the Tunisian Mehdi Ben Attia. Here she plays the role of Sara, a mother who welcomes her son Malik (Antonin Stahly) in her villa in Hammamet, on his return to Tunisia after having studied in Paris. Malik falls in love with Bilal (Salim Kechiouche), and Sara will have to face this new reality: after all, being of French origin, she created a scandal as well when she married an Arab man (played by Lotfi Dziri).

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The "**Dorian Gray**" statuette, designed by Ugo Nespolo, will be given to **James Ivory**. He will also be present at the Festival with his last film *The City of Your Final Destination*, from the same book by **Peter Cameron**. This award is one of the main novelties which characterize the 25th Festival. *"It's because we believe in our history (and memory) that we decided to give every year*

this award to a personality of 'our' cinema, no matter if it's a director, an actor or a producer. It will be a recognition of their contribution to the cause, of their work".

WHY IVORY

*"James Ivory is a great Californian director, whose nomadic and exotic inclination often led him to set his films in India and Europe. In our imagery (and we are sure in yours too), he is not only the author of **Maurice** – one of the movies that the gay community loved the most all over the world – he is also closer to us thanks to a sensibility which conquered us: the rarefied atmospheres of his incomparable cinematographic adaptations of 'classics' (Henry James, E. M. Forster...) as well as of modern novels; the fascination for the magnificent dualism between mind and body that stimulate his heroes and, above all, his heroines; the anthropological, sexual and geographic melting pot of his movies; the condition of foreignness and, in the same time, the desire of belonging that trouble the characters, always torn between confrontation and antagonism".*

THE SECTIONS

As every year, the competition will be divided into **three sections** (feature film competition, documentary competition and short film competition), which will be judged by **three international juries**, composed of **Peter Cameron, Ivan Cotroneo, Eytan Fox, Patricia Rozema** and **Cesare Petrillo** for feature films, **Giovanni Anversa, Maria Beatty** and **Massimo Fusillo** for documentaries, **Massimo Fenati, Zvonimir Dobrovic** and **Roberto Cuzzillo** for short films. As it is tradition, **audience awards** will also be given. Compared to last years' Festivals, this year's sections have been curated by a new selection committee composed of **Fabio Bo** (artistic coordinator), **Angelo Acerbi, Margherita Giacobino** and **Alessandro Golinelli**, with the advice of Christos Acrivulis, Flavio Arnone, Nancy K. Fishman and Simone Morandi, all led by the historic director and creator of the Festival, **Giovanni Minerba**.

The intention of the group was to meet the audience demands, and to focus the attention on socio-cultural issues of the gay community.

There will be 175 films: feature films, short films and documentaries for the Competition, but also tributes (*Open Eyes*), Midnight Madness, Retrospective and Tracks, the new section which include many works out of competition. About 30 countries will be present: it's just like the Olympics of gay cinema. The leading role, except for "the 25 movies which changed our lives" and the tributes, is played by the **USA with 32 films** (none of them is in the feature film competition). Among the Europeans, Spain and France stand out with **13** and **11** films respectively, while Italy presents 7 films (but only one will compete for an award into the short film competition, *Chagall's Little Goat*).

Among the feature film competition you will find: *The Fish Child* (El niño pez) by Lucía Puenzo, who with her previous "XXY" received a mention of the critics at Cannes. This new film of hers tells the story of a middle-class young girl, Lala, who is madly in love with her Paraguayan domestic worker Guayi. The "scandalous" *From Beginning to End* (Do Começo ao Fim) by Aluisio Abranches, which insinuates itself into the love story between two brothers. *Amphetamine* by Danny Cheng Wan Cheung, alias Scud, whose film *Permanent Residence* will also be shown at the Festival – in Tracks section. They are the first and second movie respectively of the trilogy which the director calls "of the limitation". *Family Tree* (L'arbre et la forêt) by Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau. *El cónsul de sodoma* by Sigfrid Monleón with Bimba Bosè, Lucia's granddaughter, dedicated to Jaime Gil de Biedma, one of the most important Spanish poets of the second half of the 20th century.

In the other sections, among the other films you will find: *Prayers for Bobby* by Russel Mulcahy with Sigourney Weaver, *Little Ashes* by Paul Morrison with Robert Pattinson (the hero of "Twilight"), *Mary Lou* by Eytan Fox, *House of Boys* by Jean-Claude Schlim with Udo Kier e Stephen Fry, and the documentary *New York Memories*, the account of the return to the Big Apple of the German director Rosa Von Praunheim.

RETROSPECTIVE

The Festival will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a retrospective called: "**The Twenty-five movies which changed our lives**". Twenty-five evocative films chosen among the many films showed at the Festival during these years, a sort of glossary of the strongest emotions which we experienced together. In the film program: "**Happy Together**" by Wong Kar-Way, the story of an *amour fou* between two boys from Hong Kong, set in Buenos Aires. It received the Golden Palm for the best direction at Cannes '97, and it is the "twenty-fifth" film chosen by the web audience who took part in the survey carried out by our Festival website. **Bent** (1997) by British Sean Mathias, a film which marked an epoch on love in the time of Holocaust, with a soundtrack by Philip Glass. **Lilies** (1996) by John Greyson, the Canadian director who was previously an activist, and who already in '96 used to tell us what can happen inside the Church. Among them also three "high-class" *outsiders*: **The Boys in the Band** by William Friedkin, **Taxi zum klo** by Frank Ripploh and **Desert Hearts** by Donna Deitch.

THEMES

Among the themes which are highlighted during this year's festival there are the already mentioned troubled, intense and at times even unhealthy relationship between **mothers (and fathers) and homosexual children; bisexuality**, no longer perceived as indecision but as a choice, in a time in which more and more one can talk about inter-sex, that is fluidity of genders; in addition, the problems of **elder gay people** in an older and older and more aware society.

The theme of the troubled relationship between parents and children is one of the main themes of this year's festival and can be found in many films scheduled, as for example **Prayers for Bobby** by Russel Mulcahy (America) where **Sigourney Weaver** (who was nominated for this performance to the Golden Globe) plays Mary, a middle-class woman with four children who belongs to the Presbyterian Church. When her son Bobby comes out with his older brother, the whole family is shocked. Mary is convinced that religion can cure him but the events take a different turn.

FOCUS

The section called **Focus** – which will be a constant presence from now on at the Festival – aims to put the attention on themes which are particularly appealing for the gay community all around the world.

Focus **My God: Religions and homosexuality** aims to focus on the complicated relationship between Faith and Homosexuality, especially in the case of monotheist religions, Christianity, Hebraism and Islam. The themes considered are the infamous method Exodus, supported by the American Evangelic congregations in order to convert homosexuals to heterosexuality, the intolerance on Hebrew Orthodox groups' part, the hard repression mood present in Islamic countries and moreover the difficult conditions of Italian believer gay people.

Focus **Homophobia. Hatred eats soul alive** faces those realities in which homosexuality is considered as a crime (Cameroon, Iran, Uganda, Mongolia) with three shocking reporting and an *engagé* short film. On the other hand, two campaigns against homophobia created by countries of the Western world, France and Israel, as another way to say never let your guard down!

Midnight Madness

Three nights with B-movies which arose from the necessity to give visibility to movies which, usually, play little roles within Festivals' programs: this is a homage to bizarre, extreme, absurd, kitsch movies, obviously always read from a gay point of view.

TRIBUTES

Three **Open Eyes**, that is tributes, are side by side with the usual sections and the movies out of contest. This year they are dedicated to three icons of the so-called "other" cinema: **Maria Beatty**, an

experimental filmmaker from New York who investigates the world of lesbian eroticism and who is a touchstone in the international realm of fetishism; among the movies she is going to present there is her last movie, *Bandaged*, produced along with Abel Ferrara; **Patricia Rozema** who directed *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* and *When Night Is Falling*, milestone in the women and lesbian cinema; **Holly Woodlawn**, actress, singer, transgender and performer from Puerto Rico who artistically blossomed in Andy Warhol's Factory: Lou Reed was referring to her in the noted song *Walk on the Wild Side*.

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

There is place for music and songs too, through an overview of the Eurovision Song Contest, an appointment which the gay community in Europe cannot miss. An ideal trip which started in 1959 and finished with these days. You will be able to see awkward **Kessler Twins** (1959), the yet unknown band of **ABBA** with a song entitled "Waterloo", the unforgettable festival of 1974 which was broadcast weeks after because the Italian song, with the very brief title "Si", performed by **Gigliola Cinquetti**, could have influence the Italian people who was about to express its vote on the issue of divorce. Then 1990s which were marked by the increasing presence of overt homosexual artists, from Austrian **Tony Vegas** to Portuguese **Dina**; moreover the first ever performance by **Riverdance**, and, in 1994, the victory of **Dana International**, a transgender from Isreal with the song "Diva".

TV AND WEB

Presentation of some TV-series which were particularly appreciated, among which the highly praised *The Line of Beauty* by Sul Dibb, adapted the novel by Alan Hollinghurst and won the noted Booker Prize, which is set in Thatcher's UK; the most recent *Mary Lou*, the camp musical shot for the Isreal TV by Eytan Fox and the American TV-series for the web *We Have to Stop Now* – where all the protagonists are lesbians – by Robyn Dettman.

Electronic Transgenders

Whoever videogames, also changes his gender, almost always at least. It implies a non traumatic gender transfer which makes one become woman or man, and which makes one feel their sensations. After editing it, a part of "*Grand Theft Auto: The Ballad of Gay Tony*", will be shown. This is a milestone video-game by Rockstar Games, whose genre is noir and whose plot deals with Gay Tony's assistant's crimes. Gay Tony is the owner of both gay and heterosexual clubs, some among the most renowned of Liberty City (a kind of virtual New York). He is a homosexual character with rare charisma, the true hero of the video-game. Along with the presentation of "The Ballad of Gay Tony" there will be a serie of interviews and parts of video-games which deepen the theme of transgenders. Once the video-game is shown on screen, it becomes cinema: this is a changement of gender too, isn't it?

SOMEONE LIKES IT...BOOK

Since it has always been attentive to the LGBT literature, the Festival opened last year a section wholly dedicated to books and their authors. This section's events - meetings, presentations, readings - will be hosted by Feltrinelli in CLN Square, Turin. This year it will start with the American writer **Peter Cameron**, who will read some passages from his novels: *The City of Your Final Destination* and *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*. And **Holly Woodlawn** too, who will introduce her autobiographical *A Low Life in High Heels*, and **Massimo Fenati** with *Gus & Waldo's Book of Love*.

FROM TURIN TO ROME

The event **Queering Roma**, the celebration of the LGBT cinema, will be held from April 23rd to 25th 2010, by the Nuovo Cinema Aquila. This is an event managed by the **Association Armilla** with the help of **Torino LGBT Film Festival From Sodom To Hollywood**, thanks to the support of the **Province of Roma**, with the collaboration of the Circle of the Artists and the Homosexual Culture

Circle Mario Mieli: some feature-length films, some short movies and documentaries, this year presented in Turin, will be shown.

From Sodom To Hollywood - Torino LGBT Film Festival was born in 1986 and is directed by Giovanni Minerba. From 2005 it is managed and administrated by Museo Nazionale del Cinema with the support of the Culture Councillorship for Piedmont, for the Province of Turin and for the City of Turin, with the contribution of Fondazione CRT, and the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities as well, which recognized the Festival as “one of the most prestigious cinematographic Italian event on an international scale”.

Turin LGBT Film Festival

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