Italian Film FOCUS

23rd edition

4 - 6 DECEMBER 2023

Cinema Labia - CAPE TOWN

THE LARGEST SHOWCASE OF RECENT ITALIAN FILMS IN AFRICA

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Fees van Italiaanse flieks in Kaap

Laetitia Pople

Die jongste rolprent van die bekroonde Italiaanse rolprentmaker Liliana Cavani is onder die sewentien Italiaanse rolprente wat wys op die Italian Film Focus-fees wat van 4 tot 6 Desember in die Labiateater in Kaapstad aangebied word.

Toegang tot hierdie jaarlikse uitstalling van Italiaanse prente, wat ook op internasionale feeste aandag getrek het, is gratis.

Eerste aan die beurt op 4 Desember om 10:00 is 'n prent oor die vermoorde modeontwerper Gianni Versace wat skeppings vir ikone soos prinses Diana, Madonna en Elton John ontwerp het. Die prent *Gianni Versace: The Emperor of Dreams* se rolprentmaker, Mimmo Calopresti, sal teenwoordig wees by die vertoning. Die prent begin by Versace se kinderjare in Reggio Calabria, waar hy leer naaldwerk doen het by sy naaldwerkster-ma, sy studies in die klassieke beskawings en sy openlike uitlewing van sy seksualiteit in die dorp. Later is hy genoop om na Milaan te vlug – sy lewensverhaal word deur vriende en familielede vertel; sy modelle, soos Carla Bruni, kry ook kans om meer oor hom te vertel. Die prent dek nie net sy opkoms in die modewêreld nie, maar ook sy invloed in die teaterwêreld, op die musiektoneel, die rolprentkuns en in die televisiewêreld.

Ná die prent wys *Anna* van die regisseur Marco Amenta om 20:30. Die prent speel in die ongerepte Sardinië af en handel oor Anna, 'n vurige jong vrou wat 'n plasie – wat haar pa aan haar bemaak het – eiehandig bestuur. Tog staan tyd nie stil nie en bedreig die oprigting van 'n ontspanningsoord naby haar plaas ook haar voortbestaan. Sy moet standpunt inneem en veg vir haar oortuigings. Amenta beskryf sy prent as 'n opstand teen die verwoesting wat kapitalisme bring.

Op 5 Desember om 14:30 wys *The Order of Time* van Cavani.

Dit speel af tydens die feesviering van 'n 50ste verjaardag waarvoor 'n klompie vriende in 'n villa langs die see byeenkom. Wanneer hulle verneem dat die wêreld moontlik binnekort gaan eindig, verander als.

Die prent is in samewerking met 'n fisikus geskryf en handel oor die beskouinge om die fisieke en eksistensiële tydsverloop. Die prent het vanjaar op die Venesiese rolprentfees gewys waar Cavani vir haar lewenswerk vereer is.

Om 18:00 wys *Kidnapped* van die regisseur Marco Bellocchio.

Dit speel in 1858 in die Joodse buurt van Bologna af. Die soldate van die pous kom haal 'n Joodse gesin se sewejarige seun. Hy is met geboorte gedoop deur 'n verpleegster en moet nou 'n verpligte Rooms-Katolieke opvoeding ondergaan, al is hy Joods. Die ouers sal enigiets doen om hul kind terug te kry, en hul stryd neem gou 'n politieke wending aan – met verreikende gevolge.

Die regisseurs Massimiliano Bruno en Edoardo Leo se komedie *The Best Days* is daarna om 20:30 aan die beurt. Dit is 'n prent wat die ware aard van feesdae probeer ontmasker. Dit beeld vier verskillende stories uit, elk is gekoppel aan 'n feesdag. So is daar onder meer 'n parlementslid wat 'n Kersmaal aanbied in 'n poging om stemme te wen en so sy mosies toe te kom; 'n welgestelde sakeman wat Oujaarsaand deurbring in 'n sopkombuis om só sy beeld te poets; en 'n paartjie wat Valentynsdag vier ná meer as 'n kwarteeu saam.

Paola Cortellesi vertolk die hoofrol in en is die regisseur van *There's Still Tomorrow*.

'n Toneel uit *La Chimera* met Josh O'Connor en Isabella Rossellini in die hoofrolle.

Die aktrise Isabella Rossellini is te sien in *La Chimera*, wat op 6 Desember om 14:30 vertoon word. Dit het vanjaar in kompetisie op die Cannes-rolprentfees meegeding en is ná die eerste vertoning daarvan vir nege minute lank toegejuig.

Die resensies wat verskyn het, was ook besonder gunstig.

Die regisseur is Alice Rohrwacher en dit handel oor 'n Britse argeoloog, vertolk deur Josh O'Connor (die jonger prins Charles in *The Crown*), wat onwetende betrokke raak by 'n uitgebreide netwerk wat Etruskiese artefakte steel. Die kosbaarhede word al vir dekades vasgelê en verhandel.

Om 18:30 wys die drama *Disco Boy* van die regisseur Giacomo Abbruzzese. Dit is sy debuutprent en is met 'n Silwer Beer-prys vereer op vanjaar se Berlynse rolprentfees. Dit volg die lewe van twee mans, Aleksei, wat in Parys aankom om hom by die Franse Vreemde Legioen aan te sluit, en Jomo, 'n vryheidsvegter van die Nigeriese delta wat veg teen oliemaatskappye wat hul voortbestaan bedreig. Op 'n dag kruis hul lewenspaaie.

Die fees word afgesluit met die komiese *There's Still Tomorrow* om 20:30 van die regisseur Paola Cortellesi. Die melodrama speel af in Rome in die laat 1940's ná die oorlog en volg die lewe van Delia, 'n ma en huisvrou wat haar lot aanvaar – totdat daar op 'n dag 'n brief in haar posbus beland.

Die prent toon hoe Delia (Cortellesi) met die hulp van 'n vriendin haar heerssugtige man uitoorlê. Die prent is 'n tong-in-die-kies-blik op die bevryding van vroue.

Al die prente is vanjaar uitgereik. Bespreek uitsluitlik by Eventbrite.

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The 23rd edition of Italian Film Focus features eight highly acclaimed Italian films – all of which have been featured at major international film festivals. Entry is free, and tickets are available one hour before the event.

The showcase runs from 4 to 6 December 2023 at Cinema Labia on Orange in Cape Town. Italian Film Focus also features a delegation of seven filmmakers, who will present their films and conduct workshops in local film schools.

The festival opens with the docufiction *Gianni Versace: L'Imperatore dei sogni* by Mimmo Calopresti, which will be presented by the director and producer Mariella Li Sacchi. It's an absolute premiere outside of Italy, depicting the creative and visionary ambition of a fashion genius through skilful editing of fiction, archival material, and unpublished interviews.

A film that narrates the solitary and daring struggle of a woman is Anna by Sicilian director Amenta, who has already offered us the clear figure of another heroine from the south with his previous film *The Sicilian Girl* (*La Siciliana Ribelle*).

There's Still Tomorrow (C'è ancora domani)

Two screenwriters

As for female characters and personalities, Italian cinema seems to rediscover interest in and awareness of women's expressive strength, and audiences identify, even if the stories are about women who are not contemporary. This can be seen in the protagonist of There's *Still Tomorrow (C'è ancora domani)* by Paola Cortellesi, which will be presented by the two screenwriters – Giulia Calenda and Furio Andreotti.

A story that blends tension and smiles, with the 'heroine' appearing resigned, accepting abuse because everyone else does, because, by her nature, she is peaceful and always finds a justification for the violence she is subjected to. However, in the end, she finds redemption by gaining awareness as a citizen. In the dual role of character and director, Cortellesi gives us a drama that is intimately familiar, but inevitably historical and social.

Giacomo Abbruzzese's Disco Boy

With respect to characters pushed to the limit out of necessity but also by choice, the debut film *Disco Boy* by Giacomo Abbruzzese stands out. His background as a documentary filmmaker shows in the precision with which the frames are composed and the faces and landscapes are captured. It eventually transcends into a semi-dreamlike vision, which is no less effective in its political and historical significance. The director will be present at the screening.

Director Marco Bellocchio's Kidnapped

The renowned director Marco Bellocchio presents his film *Kidnapped*, which tells a non-contemporary story hooked around a family nucleus. But here, diversity and injustice are not about a gender issue, but about what is defined as 'race' and religion. The Jew is seen as the other, as someone who must be 'normalized' and brought to the 'right' side. A depiction of an historical period and a truth seldom told and represented in Italian books and films.

The organisers also present the latest work of the tireless and always insightful Liliana Cavani, who tells us about a near future deeply rooted in the present. In a classic piece with high-level actors, she explores the unpredictable dynamics of a group of so-called friends when an external disruptive event occurs.

Th film selection also includes *Chimera*, the fourth film by another accomplished director – Alice Rohrwacher, presented and awarded at the latest Cannes Film Festival. With her unmistakable narrative style, which skilfully blends everyday life, myth, and rural landscape with depth and amusement, she takes us into a story of marginalized characters who 'plunder' history out of necessity and with a touch of madness.

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Then a work where smiles abound and where everything begins with the best intentions begins with the celebration of a holiday, but things inevitably takes a turn. The film reveals our inability to manage human and professional relationships with maturity and sincerity, especially towards ourselves. This is what happens in *Best Days (I Migliori Giorni)* by Massimiliano Bruno and Edoardo Leo.

The festival is organized in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Culture, the Italian Embassy in Pretoria, the Italian Cultural Institute, and the Italian Consulate in Cape Town.

What: Italian Film Focus 2023
When: 4 – 6 December 2023
Where: Cinema Labia on Orange, 68 Orange St, Gardens, Cape Town
Italian Film Focus tickets: Free entry, tickets available one hour before show

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Italian Film FOCUS

23rd EDITION

Cape Town - South Africa, 4 - 6 December 2023

“Making European Contemporary Cinema
How to make Independent Films
in Europe and with Europe”

A workshop held by

Domenico Calopresti director of VERSACE THE EMPEROR OF DREAMS

Mariella Li Sacchi producer of VERSACE THE EMPEROR OF DREAMS

Giacomo Abbruzzese director of DISCO BOY

Giulia Calenda and Furio Andreotti screenwriters of THERE IS STILL TOMORROW by Paola Cortellesi

Antonio Falduto and Alberto Iannuzzi from the Association of filmmakers Controluce

cityvarsity school of media & creative arts

Where: 16-18 Roeland Street, Cape Town / When: December 6, at 09:30am

Open to the public, free of charge