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Lovers Film Festival

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PRESS RELEASE

The oldest festival in Europe and third oldest in the whole world about LGBTQI culture directed by Vladimir Luxuria reaches its 36° edition

(Torino, from the 17th to the 20th of June 2021, Cinema Massimo – Museo Nazionale del Cinema)

**Sandra Milo, Malika Ayane, Dori Ghezzi, Federica Sciarelli, Vincenzo De Lucia
and Alessandro Zan as special guests**

The Lovers Film Festival, the oldest festival about LGBTQI culture (lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, queer and intersexuals) **that will take place live from the 17th to the 20th of June 2021**, at the Cinema Massimo, the official Museo Nazionale del Cinema's multiplex.

Founded by **Giovanni Minerba** and **Ottavio Mai**, from last year the historical event is directed by **Vladimir Luxuria**. The famous activist, writer, television personality, actress, singer and dramatist is supported by **Angelo Acerbi**, responsible for the selection and by two other selectors **Elsi Perino** and **Alessandro Uccelli**.

The guests

The event, like every year, can count on a rich parterre of guests. On the opening night, Thursday night at the Mole Antonelliana (entry exclusively by reservations or by invitations), the icon **Sandra Milo** will talk with **Vladimir Luxuria**.

Lovers, for the people that want to follow the event live, will make available the video of the opening night on the official YouTube channel, the next day.

On Friday night, at 10.15 pm, in sala Cabiria, **Yole Signorelli**, aka **Fumettibrutti**, the famous comic artist that drew the official poster for this year's festival.

On Saturday the 19th of June, at 3.15 pm, still in sala Cabiria, the journalist and tv presenter of *Chi l'ha visto?* **Federica Sciarelli** will talk with **Vladimir Luxuria** about the case of Luigi Cerreto and Alessandro Sabatino.



On Saturday and still in sala Cabiria, but at 8.00 pm, **Dori Ghezzi**, singer and famous life partner of Fabrizio De Andrè will be a protagonist in a focus point talk starting from the famous song by the singer from Genova Princessa.

On Sunday at 8.00 pm in sala Cabiria, the long-awaited musical guest **Malika Ayane** one of the most famous Italian singers on the international music scene.

The comical actor **Vincenzo De Lucia** will be the protagonist on the Lovers' stage every night, from the 17th (at 8.45 pm, sala Cabiria) to the 20th of June 2021, at 8.00 pm (sala Cabiria) during the closing night.

It will also be a guest **Malika Chalhy**, the 22-year-old that has been recently kicked out by her parents because she is a lesbian (Sunday the 20th of June, at 4.45 pm in Sala Rondolino).

Prices

The festival has **3 competitive sections**: **All The Lovers**, international feature films competition; **Real Lovers**, international documentaries competition and **Future Lovers**, international short films competition.

A young jury will assign the **Young Lovers** prize to the chosen international feature film. There will also be assigned the **special prize dedicated to Giò Stajano** that Lovers, from an idea of Willy Vaira and Claudio Carossa, dedicated to the memory of Giò Stajano, one of the most important and significant figures in Italian LGBTQI culture and the **Torino Pride Prize** that will be assigned to the film judged as the most efficient in the expression of the passage from different generations, ready to accept new identities.

News 2021: the **TikTok Lovers Award**. With the hashtag #ilmiofilmarcobaleno every member on the social community can participate in the selection of the best video on TikTok dedicated to LGBTQI cinema. The three best videos will be screened at the festival during the opening night and the winner will be awarded, also live on social media. This year, under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lovers will also award the prize **Riflessi nel buio**, dedicated to directors of



LGBTQI+ films who work or have worked in a country at high risk of discrimination, or - in the worst cases - imprisonment, torture, or death. The award goes to the Bosnian documentary *Let There Be Colour*.

Themes

Vladimir Luxuria, with Angelo Acerbi responsible for the selection and with the selectors Elsi Perino and Alessandro Uccelli, they have selected films that address **key issues for the LGBTQI community** and for their allies like family dynamics, homophobia, memories from the past, militancy, the discovery and acceptance of our self and love.

This year, like never before, the programming is characterized by titles that put at the center of the narrative the component of identity, community and new languages of authorial research.

The selected documentaries clearly outline the relevance of the requests of the LGBTQI+ community, but also the key points in which the request for rights, recognition and visibility become convergences of struggles and intentions.

Fumetti Brutti per il Lovers Film festival

It's Yole Signorelli, aka **Fumettibrutti**, one of the most famous comic artists and activist in Italy, that created the festival's 2021 image

"I drew the poster thinking about my teenage years and how meaningful an image like this would be, which reiterates the importance of accepting different bodies. I got inspired by the movie "Stealing Beauty", in which the main character goes into adulthood consciously and proud of herself, but focusing on a transgender girl, who has not undergone an operation, who becomes familiar with her wonderful diversity against the homologation of a heteronormative society" says the artist.



Vladimir Luxuria

For the second year, the historical festival is directed by **Vladimir Luxuria**, famous activist, writer, television personality, actress, singer, and dramatist, also known for her political activity.

Luxuria comments like this this new edition: *"Lovers is the festival of rebirth and optimism. All live, in person. The rights and culture do not go into lockdown, and we would like that after the reopening of the movie theatres we could see the reopening of the minds."*

I'm very proud that Yole aka Fumettibrutti chose to donate to us one of her creations because, in my opinion, it perfectly reflects our time and our festival that is a positive and happy event like the yellow chosen for the image. The color of the sun, of who wants to live in the sunlight, and of who is born again after a long lockdown, Lovers is, also, a festival of introspection that touches hot topics like violence or homophobia and that's why I think the chosen image represents the festival best".

The films

40 titles between feature films, documentaries and short films competing and not competing, **from all around the world, 32 nationals' previews**. A few of the nations represented: USA, France, Cyprus, Finland, Serbia, Unghery, Israel and Brasil.

The **closing film** will be **Sublet** by **Eytan Fox**, the israeli director is famous for *Yossi and Yagger* e *The Bubble*. Veteran of the Subalpine Festival, this year, he offers the public of Lovers a sweet and sour film that tells the story of a journalist in Tel Aviv that discovers the city and himself thanks to the encounter with a young local. This meeting will give both a new perspective and a new vision of the past and the future.

A few films out of competition are: **Petite Fille** by **Sebastien Lifshitz**, author of the successful *Quasi Niente (Presque Rien)* and *La Traversée*. *Petite Fille*, heartfelt and poignant, it tells the ordeals of a transgender child, and her family fighting to get



her accepted and recognized by society. A story of absolute, total, unmovable and invincible love of a mother and a family.

The **Lovers Film Festival** from 2005 is integrated in the **Museo Nazionale del Cinema** in Torino and takes place thanks to the contribution of **MiC, Regione Piemonte** and **Comune di Torino**.

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USEFUL INFORMATION

SCREENINGS

Cinema Massimo - MNC

Via Verdi, 18 - 10124 Torino T.: +39 011 8138 574

All the movies will be screened in their original language with subtitles. The access to screenings of films still without a censorship visa, will not be allowed to minors under the age of 18.

There will be no ticketing service at the Cinema Massimo: for organizational and logistical reasons, in compliance with the rules of containment and management of the epidemiological emergency of COVID-19, tickets for screenings can be purchased exclusively online with free allocation of seats purchased in advance.

TICKET PRICES

Single ticket: **€ 5**

Closing night ticket: **€ 8**

Opening night ticket: **€ 10**

PURCHASING TICKETS ONLINE

By scrolling through the program published online, you can see (from October 16th) next to the title, an icon, and by clicking on it you are automatically redirected to the site that manages the tickets pre-sale. Once the purchase has been made, the viewer will receive a digital and/or printable document by e-mail with which he will have direct access to the movie theater, with the Covid-19 document that must be filled in.



FREE ENTRY EVENTS

It will be possible to pick up the voucher to enter the cinema at the Cinema Massimo's box office, until all available places are exhausted, from June 18th onwards.

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THE PROGRAM

THURSDAY THE 17TH OF JUNE

SALA CABIRIA

8.45 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Solitude

FABIO GROSSI • ITALY, 2021, 7'

A gym. Two turned and athletic bodies. A game of looks that intertwine. The locker room, where the desire comes on. But is it a unique or mutual feeling? The shower could become an alcove. Or perhaps the theater of a seduction dance

Guest: Fabio Grossi, director

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

Dramarama

JONATHAN WYSOCKI • USA, 2020, 91'

Escondido, California, 1994. Gene, an undeclared gay teenager, is about to leave his acting class friends, with whom he has organized a farewell party, to leave for college. Oscar and sarcastic Ally are leaving. For Gene, who does not want to lose them, it is the right opportunity (and last) to come out to them. Jonathan Wysocki's nostalgic and funny debut feature film, was already at Lovers 2017 with A Doll's Eyes.

The evening will start with a greeting from Sandra Milo, the delivery of the prize Tiktok Lovers and the performance *I mille volti* by the famous comic actor Vincenzo De Lucia

FRIDAY THE 18TH OF JUNE

SALA CABIRIA

6.00 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Dramarama [R]

JONATHAN WYSOCKI • USA, 2020, 91'



8.00 PM

ALL THE LOVERS - INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

O Anthropos me tis Apantiseis (The Man with the Answers)

STELIOS KAMMITIS • CIPRUS/GREECE/ITALY, 2021, 85'

For Victor, a 20-year-old Greek former diving champion, everything changes suddenly when his grandmother dies, with whom he lived. He then leaves for Germany with an old dusty car. On the ferry to Italy he meets Matthias, young and charming, who is returning home and who convinces Victor to take him with him. And that pushes Victor out of his comfort zone and reveals the real reasons that pushed him to leave. Once at their destination, following the unpredictable turns of life, will their questions find the answers they desire?

Guests: Stelios Kammitis, director, Luca Legnani, producer

10.15 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Tove

ZAIDA BERGROTH • FINLAND, 2020, 100'

The end of the Second World War brings a new, all-encompassing sense of freedom for the avant-garde Finnish painter Tove Jansson: she lives in a dissolute way and weaves an open relationship with a married politician, going against the rigid ideals of her sculptor father. Then the meeting with the theatrical director Vivica Bandler: a new bond that inflames and devours her. And it makes her realize that the love she truly seeks must be returned.

Guest: Fumettibrutti

SALA RONDOLINO

6.15 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

The First Death of Joana (A Primeira Morte de Joana)

CRISTIANE OLIVEIRA • BRASIL/FRANCE, 2021, 91'

Why did Aunt Rosa die at 70 without ever having a boyfriend? Towards the end of the summer of 2007 a question nags the thirteen-year-old Brazilian Joana. Thus, driven by the inseparable Carolina, she begins a journey of discovery, between reality and imagination, which will reveal the rules and values of the community in which she lives and the secret that all the women in her family hide. And it will lead her to understand that inside her something wants to manifest... In the meantime, a gigantic wind power station is built not far away. A poetic coming of age story, in which self-consciousness asserts itself naturally.



8.30 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Genderation

MONIKA TREUT • GERMANY, 2021, 88'

More than twenty years after the enlightening *Gendernauts*, the German director Monika Treut, historical voice of the LGBTQI movement, returns to the Bay Area to follow the pioneers of the transgender movement to find out how their lives and their world of activism have evolved, on which they still have a lasting influence. The continuation of a story that traces both budgets but also new constructions of private sense and community in an era deeply marked by the Trump government

10.40 PM

REAL LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES COMPETITION

Limiar (Threshold)

CORACI RUIZ • BRASIL, 2020, 77'

Between 2016 and 2019 Coraci Ruiz documented his son's transition path. By addressing the conflicts, certainties and uncertainties that pervade him in a profound search for his identity. From behind the camera, he takes part in the complexities of the moment, grasping the family change and weaving a delicate dialogue on the history of feminism in Brazil, the criticalities of gender and stereotypes in which all are involved.

SALA SOLDATI

6.30 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Let There Be Colour

ADO HASANOVIC • BOSNIA, 2020, 15'

On September 8, 2019, Sarajevo hosted its first Pride March. The event was considered high risk due to threats from religious, conservative, and right-wing groups. *Let There Be Colour* tells us about this epochal moment for the Bosnian LGBTQI community, which has become an essential page of history for the country.

Presentation of the *Riflessi nel Buio* prize: Fabrizio Petri – Ministro Plenipotenziario del Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Cooperazione Internazionale, Luca Poma - Professor of Communication Sciences, Arber Kodra - Queer Film Days Albania, Fabrizio Fassio - Polychromes (Nice), the screenwriter Chiara Cruciatti and, live ON Zoom, the director Ado Hasanovic

Free admission



8.15 PM

FUTURE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

È solo nella mia testa (It's Just in My Head)

MARIUS GABRIEL STANCU • ITALY, 2020, 17'

Andreas and Alessandro have always been friends. They study in different cities, but they still spend every summer together. Before leaving, Andreas decides to give Alessandro a gift: he leaves him an envelope full of printed photos, selfies and more... On the back of some, traces of the feelings he never dared to reveal to him.

The Crossroad

ALEX LAURIA • ITALY, 2021, 10'

Three characters: a tired man who returns home after a long shift at the factory, a young pregnant woman and a man hunting in the woods. Two cars and a rifle. Some choices that will be decisive in a short glimpse of the life of these people directed towards the same road crossing.

Dal giorno finché sera (From Day While Nightfall)

ALESSANDRO GATTUSO • ITALY, 2020, 15'

A voice leads us into the nebula of a man's memories. Images mingle trying to shape the past. Moments of childhood, adulthood, and the memory of love for another man emerge as an archeology of a broken and fragmented memory. A personal and, at the same time, collective elegy.

Snake

ANDREY VOLKASHIN • NORTH MACEDONIA, 2021, 20'

The bittersweet story of an unusual friendship between a nine-year-old brat, Mario, and a gay guy with a passion for snakes and eccentric misers, Borsche. A bond tested by cultural prejudices and the contempt of parents, against the backdrop of a small country in a corner of Macedonia.

Babtou fragile (Fragile)

HAKIM MAO • FRANCE, 2020, 20'

Mehdi is a young romantic, in some ways a bit stuck. Olive, his best friend, pushes him to meet new people on the dating app. When Mehdi finally decides to take action, he does not imagine what might be the special expectations of the boy he is about to meet.

Guests: Alex Lauria, director of *The Crossroad*, Alessandro Gattuso, director of *Dal giorno finché sera*

10.30 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Milkwater

MORGAN INGARI • USA, 2020, 101'



Milo decides to become a surrogate mother and egg donor for Roger, an older gay man she met in a bar: it seems to her that she has finally found, albeit in a completely reckless way, a purpose that pushes her to move forward. However, increasingly fond of her future father, she begins to exploit pregnancy as reason to remain rooted in her life. A change of attitude that does not escape Roger, who tries to distance himself from the girl. Milo is thus forced to face, perhaps for the first time, the consequences of the emotional involvement that she is living and her decisions...

SATURDAY THE 19TH OF JUNE

SALA CABIRIA

3.15 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

MEETING WITH FEDERICA SCIARELLI

The case of Luigi Cerreto e Alessandro Sabatino.

Free entry

4.45 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

La nave del olvido (Forgotten Roads)

NICOL RUIZ • CILE, 2020, 71'

Claudina is a country woman with traditional ideas. After her husband's death, she was forced to move, with her nephew Cristobal and her daughter Alejandra, to a town in southern Chile. Here she meets Elsa, the neighbor, who, although married, makes her discover true love. Constantly under scrutiny and judgment by the conservative community where she lives, obsessed with UFO sightings, she begins a hard journey to finally be free, which will give her the courage to leave everything behind. And to understand that freedom is an individual and inalienable good.

6.15 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Landlocked

TIMOTHY HALL • USA, 2021, 82'

Nick is a chef who is about to open his first restaurant and on whom weighs the recent loss of his mother. At the request of his wife, although reluctant, he invites his father, now a transgender woman, to St. Simons Island, Georgia, for the dispersion of the ashes. As they travel through the American Southeast, they must come to terms with the painful past that binds them, resurfacing their tumultuous family history. But what awaits them is a new way to go. An intimate and powerful film, with two interpretations that leave you speechless.



8.00 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

LOVERS MEETS DORI GHEZZI

With her we will talk about Fabrizio De André and Don Gallo: voice at Princesa and all Anime Salve. Domenico Chionetti, president of Comunità San Benedetto al Porto, and Rossella Bianchi, president of the Princesa Association will participate. Will be presented the mini doc Princesa by Ugo Roffi.

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Jump, Darling

PHIL CONNELL • CANADA, 2020, 90'

Half-dressed in front of the dressing room of a lively gay bar in the city, Russell, an actor recycled as a drag queen, receives a heartbreaking ultimatum. Overwhelmed, he flees the country and goes to his grandmother Margaret, sardonic but marked by old age. In a solution perfect for both, but precarious, he moves in with her to save her from the nursing home. Despite the ghosts of the past and present, Russell manages to illuminate the local bar with his alter ego Fishy Falter, while struggling to focus on his bold, new identity. While Margaret struggles to regain control.

10.30 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Swan Song

TODD STEPHENS • USA, 2021, 105'

The good times seem to be really gone (and far away) for the sour Pat Pitsenbarger, high society hairdresser, now retired, imprisoned in an anonymous retirement home in Ohio. For him all the days are all the same, cigarette after cigarette, until he receives a bizarre request from the executor of an old client... A witty and camp comedy directed by veteran Todd Stephens who uses, for the role of the nostalgic but irresistible protagonist, the iconic Udo Kier, perfectly at ease in interpreting the swan song.

SALA RONDOLINO

2.30 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

***O Anthropolos me tis Apantiseis (The Man with the Answers)* [R]**

STELIOS KAMMITSIS • CIPRUS/GREECE/ITALY, 2021, 85'



4.15 PM

REAL LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES COMPETITION

Steelers: the World's First Gay Rugby Club

EAMMON ASHTON-ATKINSON • UK, 2020, 80'

Australian television reporter Eammon Ashton-Atkinson moves to the UK to follow the Steelers: the only gay English rugby team. Three main characters in this compelling narrative: the lesbian coach who fights misogyny on and off the field, the semi-professional player who fell into depression after his coming out and Drew, drag queen at night and rugby player by day.

6.15 PM

REAL LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES COMPETITION

Socks On Fire

BO MCGUIRE • USA, 2020, 93'

Using archive material on VHS, Bo McGuire, a young queer director, composes a real love letter to his recently deceased grandmother: the matriarch of a large family from deep South America, marked by the clashes between an old homophobic aunt and the homosexual uncle who compete for the inheritance... The grotesque, melancholy and ironic portrait of an unconventional family and the construction of their own identity.

8.15 PM

REAL LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES COMPETITION

The Mystery of the Pink Flamingo

JAVIER POLO GANDÍA • SPAIN, 2020, 86'

What lies behind the pink flamingo, ultimate kitsch icon? What is its history? He explains it, or at least he tries to, a documentary that becomes an exhilarating investigation of a socio-cultural phenomenon, in which the protagonist has collected, from a bizarre selection of characters, all the possible theories and interpretations.

In collaboration with Torino Spiritualità

10.15 PM

FUTURE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

Marlon Brando

VINCENT TILANUS • THE NETHERLANDS, 2020, 19'

Cas and Naomi prefer to spend their time together. As "brother and sister" from different parents, they live safely affection that is absent elsewhere. Future projects seem to divide them, the relationship that binds them is at stake. And Cas must find the courage to remain alone.



Lovers
Film Festival

Luz De Presença (A Present Light)

DIOGO COSTA AMARANTE • PORTUGAL, 2021, 19'

On a rainy evening, a sad man leaves the house to deliver a letter to someone who recently left him. At a crossroads he meets a woman who warns him about the slippery road. "So, I met Diana". Suffering from his broken heart, Gonçalo falls off his bike.

U Up?

VIKTÓRIA SZEMERÉDY • HUNGARY, 2020, 9'

Ben is home alone when Nico sends him a short but clear message. Two words that contain everything that for Nico are courtship and foreplay. His attitude, detached and determined, blocks Ben from showing what he feels: the fear of being rejected vanishes a moment of potential openness.

MEISJESJONGENSMIX (GirlsBoysMix)

LARA AERTS • THE NETHERLANDS, 2020, 7'

Weng Long is nine years old, and with naturalness and candor, explains that she is intersex, she wears male and female clothes, and she loves games designed for both genres. But some people say: "if you're a boy and a girl at the same time, you're nothing at all". Why is it so important to be one or the other?

Peach

SOPHIE SAVILLE • AUSTRALIA, 2021, 8'

Sarah, an eager, introverted girl with some interaction issues, finally gets a date with a nice girl, Peach. There's only one problem: Sarah's not sure at all that that's really a date.

Personals

SASHA ARGIROV • CANADA, 2020, 13'

When an encounter at a home-made glory hole reveals an unexpected connection, two loners with social anxiety must test their vulnerability to find an intimacy they may not remember wanting.

Victoria

DANIEL TOLEDO SAURA • SPAIN, 2020, 8'

The story of a meeting and, at the same time, of a reunion. It is the story of the moment when Ana sees Clara for the first time.

The Odyssey

EMMANUELLE MATTANA • AUSTRALIA, 2021, 7'

Finally, the Zoom lesson becomes interesting for the thirteen-year-old Kiki, when she realizes that the screen of her computer also acts as an access portal to the room of the girl for whom she has a crush on...



SALA SOLDATI

2.15 PM

FUTURE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION [R]

È solo nella mia testa (It's Just in My Head)

MARIUS GABRIEL STANCU • ITALY, 2020, 17'

The Crossroad

ALEX LAURIA • ITALIA, 2021, 10'

Dal giorno finché sera (From Day While Nightfall)

ALESSANDRO GATTUSO • ITALY, 2020, 15'

Snake

ANDREY VOLKASHIN • NORTH MACEDONIA, 2021, 20'

Babtou fragile (Fragile)

HAKIM MAO • FRANCE, 2020, 20'

4.45 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Via degli specchi

GIOVANNA GAGLIARDO • ITALY, 1983, 35MM, 82'

Francesca, a woman-judge, is happily married to a rich and successful man. Shortly before their holiday, she was charged with shedding light on the mysterious death of a girl, Rosa, who threw herself off the terrace of her house. She then interrogates friends and neighbors, including Veronica who is living in front of them and has followed the whole story. By discovering her husband's affair with Rosa and her involvement in the suicide or, perhaps, murder. But Francesca has a final confrontation with Veronica, from which a quarrel arises... The Lovers homage to Milva, here in the role of Veronica.

Connected on Zoom: Martina Corgnati, Milva's daughter

7.00 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Era ieri

VALENTINA PEDICINI • ITALY, 2016, 13'

Giò is thirteen years old and lives in the south of Italy. She runs a gang of boys and is secretly in love with Paola. She is ready to compete with male rivals to win her heart. On the last day of summer things seem to change forever.

My Marlboro City

VALENTINA PEDICINI • ITALY, 2010, 50'

For years Brindisi was considered the realm of cigarette smuggling. The director returns home to find out what is left of that past, what the future holds. A city told



through the lives of four characters and four generations. Nanda, Rino, Salvatore, Andrea: love, prison, past, hope in Marlboro City.

A few months after her death, *Lovers* pays homage to Valentina Pedicini, guest of the festival in 2017, with a masterclass on realist cinema.

Free entry

8.30 PM

FUTURE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

The Call

MARIOS PSARAS • CIPRUS, 2020, 10'

A transgender person receives a phone about the death of his mother, and the invitation to return for the funeral. With a clarification. Why choose between filial love and living our own truth?

Apodراسi apo ton Effhrafsto Planiti (Escaping the Fragile Planet)

THANASSIS TSIMPINIS • GREECE, 2020, 17'

A few hours before the end of the world, two young men meet by chance, while a mysterious pink fog spreads throughout the city. Their relationship only lasts a day, but in a broken world, invaded by fear, few moments of intimacy are enough to feel safe against the certain end.

Desconexo (Offline)

LUI AVALLOS • BRASIL, 2020, 30'

Following a presidential decree that disrupts any internet connection, two neighbors, who never spoke to each other, have an online relationship of veneration - one selling porn on cams that the other greedily consumes - meet to live a day offline

Dustin

NAÏLA GUIGUET • FRANCE, 2020, 20'

In an abandoned shed, a crowd dances to the rhythm of the 145 BPM of techno. There is Dustin, a young transgender person, with his crew: Felix, Raya and Juan. As the night progresses, the collective hysteria turns into sweet melancholy, and the euphoria becomes a desire for tenderness.

L'Empot   (Extra Flavour)

CARLOS ABASCAL PEIR   • FRANCE, 2020, 9'

Joachim is an ordinary 60-year-old with a secret obsession, or rather two: observe the male clientele of the gym in front of the house. While he eats pickled cucumbers. When one day the easy open jar in your hands does not open you feel that this is a sign: that the big moment has arrived?



10.45 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Let There Be Colour [R]

ADO HASANOVIC • BOSNIA, 2020, 15'

REAL LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES COMPETITION

AIDS Diva: The Legend of Connie Norman

DANTE ALENCASTRE • USA, 2021, DCP, 62'

Connie Norman, self-titled AIDS Diva, was the spokesperson for ACT UP / Los Angeles in the late 1980s and 1990s. She was described as "ex-drag queen, ex-prostitute, former drug addict, former high-risk youth and HIV-positive transsexual woman". Or, more simply, a human being in search of his humanity.

SUNDAY THE 20TH OF JUNE

SALA CABIRIA

2.15 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Milkwater [R]

MORGAN INGARI • USA, 2020, 101'

4.30 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Jump, Darling [R]

PHIL CONNELL • CANADA, 2020, 90'

8.00 PM

CLOSING NIGHT

AWARDING THE WINNERS

Opening the event: Malika Ayane's voice, Vincenzo De Lucia's transformation and a delegation from the Festival MIX Milano

SPECIAL EVENT

Sublet

EYTAN FOX • ISRAEL, 2020, 89'

Michael, journalist from the New York Times, who recently went through a personal tragedy, is in Tel Aviv for professional reasons, and he wants to finish as soon as possible. But when he sublets an apartment from Tomer, a young film student, he finds himself involved in the life of the city. And with Tomer, with whom begins an improbable and intense bond, that will transform, unexpectedly, their lives.



SALA RONDOLINO

2.30 PM

FUTURE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION [R]

The Call

MARIOS PSARAS • CIPRUS, 2020, 10'

Apodراسi apo ton Effthrafsto Planiti (Escaping the Fragile Planet)

THANASSIS TSIMPINIS • GRECIA, 2020, 17'

Desconexo (Offline)

LUI AVALLOS • BRASIL, 2020, 30'

Dustin

NAÏLA GUIGUET • FRANCE, 2020, 20'

L'Empot   (Extra Flavour)

CARLOS ABASCAL PEIR   • FRANCE, 2020, 9'

4.45 PM

LOVERS MEETS ZAN

With Vladimir Luxuria, Alessandro Zan, Malika Chalhy, Costantino della Gherardesca and Alessandro Battaglia – Coordinatore di Torino Pride.

Free entry

6.30 PM

FUTURE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION [R]

Marlon Brando

VINCENT TILANUS • THE NETHERLANDS, 2020, 19'

Luz De Presen  a (A Present Light)

DIOGO COSTA AMARANTE • PORTUGAL, 2021, 19'

U Up?

VIKT  RIA SZEMER  DY • UNGHERY, 2020, 9'

MEISJESJONGENSMIX (GirlsBoysMix)

LARA AERTS • THE NETHERLANDS, 2020, 7'

Peach

SOPHIE SAVILLE • AUSTRALIA, 2021, 8'

Personals

SASHA ARGIROV • CANADA, 2020, 13'

Victoria

DANIEL TOLEDO SAURA • SPAIN, 2020, 8'

The Odyssey

EMMANUELLE MATTANA • AUSTRALIA, 2021, 7'



8.30 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Landlocked [R]

TIMOTHY HALL • USA, 2021, 82'

10.30 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

The First Death of Joana (A Primeira Morte de Joana) [R]

CRISTIANE OLIVEIRA • BRASIL/FRANCE, 2021, 91'

SALA SOLDATI

2.15 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

ZAIDA BERGROTH • FINLAND, 2020, 100'

4.15 PM

EVENTO SPECIALE

No Ordinary Man

AISLING CHIN-YEE, CHASE JOYNT • CANADA, 2020, 84'

Husband, adopting father and musician, Billy Tipton, born in 1914 in Oklahoma, is universally considered one of the icons of jazz music of the twentieth century. Only when he died in 1989, the secret that he had always jealously guarded came to light: long before the birth of the trans movement, Tipton lived as a soldier without anyone knowing about it. Through the testimonies, between past and present, of other transgender people, we relive the history of a man out of the ordinary, from every point of view.

6.15 PM

Petite fille (Little Girl)

SEBASTIEN LIFSHITZ • FRANCE, 2020, 90'

Sasha is seven years old and always knew she was a girl, even if she was born a boy. Because society does not treat her like other children her age, her family, which supports her, constantly strives to make her understand her and to make her accept her. The latest documentary, presented at Berlinale 2020, by French director Sébastien Lifshitz. Several times guest of the festival, attentive observer, since the nineties, the universe LGBTQI, which he told, with sensitivity and acumen, mutations, and changes.



8.15 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

Swan Song [R]

TODD STEPHENS • USA, 2021, 105'

10.15 PM

ALL THE LOVERS – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS COMPETITION

SCREENING OF THE WINNING FEATURE FILM

Lovers Film Festival

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OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHT

The vernissage

On Thursday the 17th of June, at 7.00 pm, the **Lovers Film Festival** inaugurates the 36th edition at the Museo Nazionale Del Cinema in the Mole Antonelliana, in the setting of the Aula del Tempio celebrating great cinema with an exceptional godmother, icon of Italian cinema: **Sandra Milo** (exclusive access by reservation or by invitation). Together with the artistic director **Vladimir Luxuria**, the actress will relive her career and the history of Italian cinema, that had her as the main character.

A conversation that will start from the important prize just obtained, the David di Donatello for her career. The night will once again confirm the role of a precious ally, Sandra Milo, always in the front line to support the struggles and instances of the LGBTQ+ community.

The places, in compliance with the rules of containment and management of the epidemiological emergency of COVID-19, will be limited. Lovers, for everyone that won't be able to follow the event in person, will make available the video of the night on the official YouTube channel on the next day.

Still on Thursday the 17th, at the Cinema Massimo in sala Cabiria a special event will take place with the screening of two films **Solitude** by **Fabio Grossi** (Italia, 2021, 7').

A gym. Two turned and athletic bodies. A game of looks that intertwine. The locker room, where the desire comes on. But is it a unique or mutual feeling? The shower could become an alcove. Or perhaps the theater of a seduction dance...

After that the film **Dramarama** by **Jonathan Wysocki** (USA, 2020, 91') will be screened. Escondido, California, 1994. Gene, an undeclared gay teenager, is about to leave his acting class friends, with whom he has organized a farewell party, to leave for college. Oscar and sarcastic Ally are leaving. For Gene, who



does not want to lose them, it is the right opportunity (and last) to come out to them. Jonathan Wysocki's nostalgic and funny debut feature film, was already at Lovers 2017 with *A Doll's Eyes*.

The evening will start with a greeting from Sandra Milo, the delivery of the prize Tiktok Lovers and the performance *I mille volti* by the famous comic actor Vincenzo De Lucia.

The finissage

On Sunday the 20th, alle 8.00 pm in sala Cabiria, the **Closing Night** - in addition to the usual awards ceremony of the competitions, the stage performance of Vincenzo De Lucia and the screening of **Sublet** by **Eytan Fox** (Israel, 2020, 89') - involves the participation of an international renown musical guest **Malika Ayane**. On the stage a delegation from the **Festival MIX Milano**.

THE FILM

Michael, journalist from the New York Times, who recently went through a personal tragedy, is in Tel Aviv for professional reasons, and he wants to finish as soon as possible. But when he sublets an apartment from Tomer, a young film student, he finds himself involved in the life of the city. And with Tomer, with whom begins an improbable and intense bond, that will transform, unexpectedly, their lives.

Eytan Fox, born in New York and raised in Israel, was already at Lovers with *The Bubble*, *Yossi* and *Cupcakes*, examines the different sides of one's identity by showing the relationship between two apparently different and distant men.

Lovers Film Festival

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THE GUESTS

Sandra Milo

Thursday the 17th of June, at 7.00 pm, Mole Antonelliana, Aula del Tempio

Free entry exclusively by reservation or by invite

Sandra Milo, born in 1933, is universally and still recognized as one of the most loved and appreciated stars of Italian cinema after the Second World War.

It is testified by, for example, the David career award she received on the last edition of the award.

Sandrocchia, as Fellini affectionately called her, starred in Roberto Rossellini's *Il generale Della Rovere* (1959), Antonio Pietrangeli's *Adua e le sue compagne* (1960) and *Fantasma a Roma* (1961), Dino Risi's *L'ombrellone* (1963). But it was the partnership with Federico Fellini, she was her muse and lover, that gave her the greatest professional satisfaction: for the role of Carla in *8 ½* (1963) and Susy/Iris/Fanny in *Giulietta degli Spiriti* (1965) she obtained the Nastro d'argento for best supporting actress.

In the same years she made her debut on television, where, after a long period of absence, she returned in the 80s with successful programs like *Mixer* and *Piccoli fans*.

Malika Ayane

Sunday the 20th of June, at 8.00 pm, sala Cabiria

She debuts in 2008 with *Malika Ayane*, which quickly became a platinum record.

A success that is repeated with *Grovigli* (2010), *Ricreazione* (2012), *Naïf* (2015), *Domino* (2018) and the newest one *Malifesto* (2021). She takes part in several editions of the Festival di Sanremo: in 2009, in the section Nuove Proposte, with *Come foglie*, thanks to which she comes second, in 2010, she was promoted in the



Artisti section, with *Ricomincio da qui*, that makes her win the Premio della critica Mia Martini and the Premio della Sala Stampa radio e Tv, in 2013 with *E se poi e Niente*, in 2015 with *Adesso e qui* (nostalgico presente), thanks to which she comes third and she gets the Premio della critica again, in the last edition, with *Ti piaci così*. She collaborated with the most important voices of Italian and international pop, like Andrea Bocelli, Jovanotti, Ligabue, Franco Battiato, Carmen Consoli, Zucchero, Paolo Conte, Cesare Cremonini, Claudio Baglioni, Francesco De Gregori, Laura Pausini. That's not all: she plays Evita Peron in the homonymous theatrical musical, in 2016/'17, and she was a judge on the 13th season of X Factor.

Federica Sciarelli

Saturday the 19th of June, at 3.15 pm, sala Cabiria

Federica Sciarelli at 20 years old wins a scholarship for the start of her journalistic career. Her first stable job, however, is at the Parliamentary Information Office where she remains for four years. Her journalistic career begins at the TG 3, directed by Sandro Curzi. She is assigned to the political office: she is among the first women to hold this position in a tg. She followed the major political parties, the parliamentary proceedings, then became a reporter for the Presidente della Repubblica Cossiga, and she was recognized as a Cavaliere della Repubblica, by the Presidente della Repubblica Scalfaro.

She leads the edition of the TG 3 at 10.30 pm Roma - New York. Then she moved to the one at 7.00 pm, and then she stopped being a reporter.

She then went on to lead Primo Piano. She is currently a parliamentary reporter and Councilor of the Order of Journalists of Lazio, in the TG3 team and, since 2004, she has been on air every Monday on Rai Tre as a presenter of *Chi l'ha visto?*



Dori Ghezzi

Saturday the 19th of June, at 8.00 pm, sala Cabiria

Dori Ghezzi gets her first hit in 1969 with *Casatschok* and, the following year, she goes to Sanremo with *Occhi a mandorla*. In 1973 the couple Wess & Dori Ghezzi was created, they began with *Voglio stare con te* and they went on with several participations at the Festival di Sanremo: in the same year with *Tu nella mia vita*, and in 1976, with *Come stai con chi sei*.

They reach the peak of success by winning the 1974/'75 edition of Canzonissima with *Un corpo e un'anima*. In 1975 they take part in the Eurofestival Song Contest in Stockholm with *Era*, that comes third.

In March 1974 she meets Fabrizio De André. In 1977 she takes part as chorister in the making of the record Rimini. In the 80s she will take part in Sanremo several times, with *Margherita non lo sa* (1983), *E non si finisce mai* (1987) and *Il cuore delle donne* (1989). In the same time frame, she left her job as a singer: she will return to sing as a chorister in a tour by De André and in his last record *Anime salve* (1996). In 2002 she plays the musician Jones, accompanied by the PFM, for the documentary by Luca Facchini *A Farewell to Beat*, dedicated to Fernanda Pivano. Today Dori Ghezzi is president of the Foundation Fabrizio De André Onlus.

Vincenzo De Lucia

Every night from Thursday the 17th of June (at 8.45pm, sala Cabiria) to Sunday the 20th of June, at 8.00 pm, (sala Cabiria)

Vincenzo De Lucia, impersonator from Naples, born in 1987, wore, with extreme naturalness and amazing results, the shoes of the Italian television ladies, like Maria De Filippi, Mara Venier, Barbara D'Urso, Mara Maionchi, Franca Leosini, Maria Nazionale, Sandra Milo, Ornella Vanoni. In 2009 he won the Premio Alighiero



Noschese as Best Imitator and Changer from Campania. After that he has ventured in the popular theater next to Leopoldo Mastelloni.

Through the years, many were also the stages treaded on heels by Vincenzo, including the Gay Village in Rome (2015), where he was discovered by Vladimir Luxuria.

He debuted in prime time on the successful show *Made in Sud* (2020), broadcasted on Rai 2. Thanks to the success achieved, he was reconfirmed in the show *Stasera tutto è possibile*, on Rai 2 as well. Revelation of 2021, he participated in several episodes of *Domenica In*, on Rai1, and at *Maurizio Costanzo Show*, on Canale 5, conquering the public with its characters.

Yole Signorelli - Fumettibrutti

Friday the 18th of June, at 10,15 pm, Sala Cabiria

Josephine Yole Signorelli (Catania, 1991), aka Fumettibrutti, graduated in graphic design at the Istituto Statale d'Arte in Catania in 2010. In 2013 she graduated university at the Accademia delle Belle Arti. She moved to Bologna, where she followed the specialization course in Comics Languages at the local Accademia, and she finishes it in 2019. At the same time, she is noted with her homonymous artistic project on social media (now she has more than one hundred and fifty thousand followers on Instagram), and, in 2018, Feltrinelli offers her to publish a book. So *Romanzo esplicito* (2018) is released, winner of the prize Gran Guinigi at Lucca Comics & Games. After that she creates *P. La mia adolescenza trans* (2019) and *Anestesia* (2020), both very appreciated by the public and the critics. She also appears in the anthologies *Materia Degenera* (2018), *Post Pink. Antologia di fumetto femminista* (2019) and *Sporchi e Subito* (2020), that she cures.



Alessandro Zan

Sunday the 20th of June, at 4.45 pm, sala Rondolino

He is an Italian LGBT politician and activist. Member of the LGBTQ+ community he is also known for having promoted and obtained the first Italian register of queer couples, also open to homosexual couples, and for being the rapporteur of the law that fights discrimination and violence towards sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

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COMPETITIONS AND JURIES

All the Lovers

The International Feature Films Jury will assign the Ottavio Mai prize to the best feature film, a total of 1000 euros, and the special mention (if it is considered appropriate).

Jury: 4 students from the Università degli Studi di Torino (Jessica Tripodi, Davide Tiberghia, Michelangelo Morello, Yulia Neproskina) chaired and coordinated by **Costantino della Gherardesca**.

He was born in Rome in 1977, he studied philosophy at King's College in London, then after he devoted himself to television and journalism. He wrote for *L'Indipendente*, *Dagospia.it*, *Rolling Stone*, *Il Foglio*, *Vogue.it* e *Vice*. In tv he hosted *Pechino Express*, *Le spose di Costantino*, *Apri e vinci* and he took part in *Chiambretti c'è*, *Markette*, *Chiambretti Night*, *Ciao Darwin* and *Il Cantante mascherato*. He is currently working on two podcasts: *Artefatti* and *Le Radici dell'Orgoglio*.

Real Lovers

The International Documentaries Jury, will assign the prize, offered by UCCA APS and ARCI that includes 500 euros in addition to the possibility of circuiting for the work awarded, to the best documentary

Jury: 4 students from the Università degli Studi di Torino (Matteo Masi, Cristian Cerutti, Giulia Seccia, Chiara Iurlaro) chaired and coordinated by **Adele Tulli**.

Born in 1982, she studied at the University of Roehampton, in London, where she obtained a Phd focused on the subversive power of cinema aesthetics in queer and feminist culture. With her films, presented in the most important international film festivals, she participated in various editions of our festival, obtaining very positive feedback: in 2011 she won the prize for best documentary with *365 Without 377*, and, in 2019, with *Normal*. Also, in 2014, she has been awarded a special mention for *Rebel Menopause*.



Future Lovers

The Jury will assign the prize, including 300 euros supported by Sicurezza & Lavoro, to the best short film

Jury: 4 students from Scuola Holden in Torino (Matteo Di Lizia, Giulio Arras, Cecilia Bardini, Irene Filippi) chaired and coordinated by **Francesco Foschini**.

Film critic and programmer, he took part in editorial projects promoted by the Milano Film Network and the Venice Biennale. He cooperates, and has cooperated, with Alias Il Manifesto, Film Tv, Taxidriver and Sentieri selvaggi. Currently he is part of the programming team of MiX - Festival Internazionale di Cinema LGBT+ and Queer Culture.

Giò Stajano Prize

The festival, from an idea of the writer **Willi Vaira** and of **Claudio Carossa**, dedicates a prize in memory of di Giò Stajano, one of the most important and significant figures of the Italian LGBTQI culture, that for far too long has passed in the background. The prize consists in 500 euros, which will be donated to the film, chosen from all sections of the program, chosen by the selection committee of the festival and Willi Vaira.

Torino Pride Prize

To the competitive sections of Lovers Film Festival, for the second year, it will be added the **Torino Pride prize** that will be awarded to the film judged as the more effective in expressing the passage of meaning between different generations, ready to welcome the new instances of identity.

With this award - 800 euros - the Coordinamento Torino Pride, with the Associazione Amiche e Amici della cultura and the festival del cinema LGBT would like to reiterate the pivotal role of cinema in the fight for rights.

Jury: Stefania Basso, Tosca Cellini, Gigi Malaroda, Angela Mazzoccoli e Giziana Vetrano.



Matthew Sheppard Prize - Young Lovers

The jury Young Lovers will assign the **Matthew Sheppard Prize** to a movie chosen from the International Feature Films Competition.

Jury: 4 students (Alice Viscogliosi, Marta Rabellino, Martina Braconaro, Miriam Mussone, Noemi Mussone) chaired and coordinated by **Walter Revello**, president of Libere Gabbie.

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