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**Countdown begins to the oldest film festival
on LGBTQI+ issues in Europe and third in the world**

(Turin, April 18 - 23, 2023, Cinema Massimo - National Museum of Cinema)

**March 18th a preview of the festival with the national premiere of
Stranizza d'amuri by Giuseppe Fiorello presented with Vladimir Luxuria**

**Tribute to Maurizio Costanzo with a screening of *Una giornata particolare*
Ettore Scola's film for which he signed the screenplay**

**Presidents of the three competitive sections the representatives of some of
Europe's leading LGBTQI+ festivals**

The countdown officially begins for the **Lovers Film Festival**, Italy's oldest festival on LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex) issues directed by **Vladimir Luxuria** and founded by **Giovanni Minerba** and **Ottavio Mai**, which will take place **April 18-23, 2023** at the Cinema Massimo, the multiplex of the **National Museum of Cinema** in Turin.

The national premiere of *Stranizza d'amuri*

On March 18th, at 7:30 p.m., at Cinema Nazionale (<https://nazionale.cctorino.18tickets.it/>), the national premiere of ***Stranizza d'amuri***, the new film by **Giuseppe Fiorello**, will be screened. Fiorello will present the film in the theater with Lovers director **Vladimir Luxuria**. The film will then be released in Italian cinemas from March 23rd.

Dedicated to Giorgio and Antonio, victims of the 1980 **Giarre crime** in province of Catania, the film is directed by **Giuseppe Fiorello**: actor, director, screenwriter and producer. *Stranizza d'amuri* is his first feature film as a director for cinema.

Sicily 1982. While televisions broadcast the World Cup and Italians hope to win it, two teenagers dream of living their love without fear.

Gianni and Nino meet by chance and then love each other by choice.

Their love will be pure and sincere, but it cannot escape the prejudice of the town, which does not understand or accept it. Their love will also not be understood by their respective families, thus generating a strong and painful internal conflict.

Stranizza d'amuri tells the dream of loving each other without fear.



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The cast of the film, produced by Eleonora Pratelli and Riccardo Di Pasquale and distributed by Bim Distribuzione, includes Gabriele Pizzurro, Samuele Segreto, Fabrizia Sacchi and Simona Malato.

A production Iblafilm, Fenix Entertainment with Rai Cinema and in association with Silvio Campara, Golden Goose e Generalife.

Tribute to Maurizio Costanzo

Lovers, this year, will pay tribute to **Maurizio Costanzo**, a few months after his death, with the screening of a masterpiece for which he signed the screenplay: **Una giornata particolare** (1977) directed by **Ettore Scola** and starring **Sophia Loren** and **Marcello Mastroianni**. The film, which earned 2 Oscar nominations and won 3 Nastri d'Argento, 2 David di Donatello and an award at the Golden Globes, is set in Fascist Rome in 1938. The city is celebrating the arrival of the Führer on a visit to the Duce, and in a council house Antonietta, wracked by pregnancies and fatigue, opens the cage of the blackbird that goes to lean on the windowsill of an apartment opposite to hers. It's that of Gabriele, a former EIAR announcer who is packing his suitcase waiting to go into confinement because he is a homosexual. As the radio continues to broadcast the report of the meeting between Hitler and Mussolini, Antonietta and Gabriele will mirror each other.

'I owe Maurizio Costanzo a lot, indeed a whole lot - commented Vladimir Luxuria - and I would like to use the plural. We owe him a lot. Because he was the first, in unsuspected times, to talk about difficult topics such as homophobia, homosexuality and gender identity as in my case, in tv and mass media. He often invited me to his talk shows where I also went with my mother. But we also owe him recognition and gratitude for having written the screenplay for one of the most beautiful films in the history of Italian cinema: Una giornata particolare, a film that is still very relevant and deals with the theme of censorship and poetically describe two solitudes that meet'.



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Lovers
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Jury presidents, films and competitive sections

The programme will include around **60 titles** including feature films, documentaries and short films **from all over the world**. Three main competitive sections: **All The Lovers**, international feature film competition; **Real Lovers**, international documentary competition and **Future Lovers**, international short film competition.

The three juries, for the first time in the festival's history, will be chaired by representatives of some of Europe's leading LGBTQI+ festivals.

*"Last year the choice of jury presidents was linked to the militancy in and history of the Italian homosexual movement, but this year we decided to call on representatives of international film festivals with an LGBTQI+ theme in order to emphasise the role of cinema and culture in general in the fight for rights," says **Vladimir Luxuria**.*

For the international feature film competition: **Brian Robinson**, programmer of the BFI Flare, LGBTQIA+ Film Festival in London.

For the international documentary competition: **Bohdan Zhuk**, who works at the Kyiv International Film Festival Molodist, the most important Ukrainian film festival, for which he also curates the selection of Sunny Bunny, the LGBTQI+ themed program of the event.

For the international short film competition: **Tiina Teras** in charge of programming at Festheart, Estonia's first LGBTQI+ themed festival.

The other prizes

A jury of young students will award the **Young Lovers - Matthew Shepard** prize by choosing a film from the international feature film competition. A special prize dedicated to **Giò Stajano** will be awarded. Lovers, from an idea by writer **Willy Vaira** and **Claudio Carossa**, dedicates this prize to the memory of Giò Stajano, one of the most important and significant figures in Italian LGBTQI culture. The **Torino Pride** prize will be awarded by the **Turin Pride Coordination Board**, in collaboration with **the Friends of Culture Association and the LGBT Film Festival**, to a film that best represents the struggle and militancy of the LGBTQI+ community.

Lastly, the **Riflessi nel Buio** (Reflections in the Dark) prize, dedicated to a film made in a Country where the homosexual condition is a danger and sometimes a risk to life.

Vauro Senesi for the Lovers Film Festival



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Vauro signed the 2023 image.

'We are experiencing a period of immobility regarding the rights of the LGBTQI+ community. As if we were all attached to a rope.

Instead, the image that Vauro created for us and gave us, carries hope along with it: that one day the rope can be broken and that finally our lives and our dignity can take flight. We, with cinema, try to fly and make our audience fly with our imagination, but we also hope that this cultural battle of ours will soon be followed by a political battle: I am confident that we will soon be able not only to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the festival but also the achievement of new social goals with the conquest of new rights,' commented director

Vladimir Luxuria.

"They say. They say the kite is a symbol of freedom. It flies, it twirls in the wind. But. But it is tied to a rope . That rope can be as hard as prejudice, can be as resistant as hatred, as cold as impatience. That rope can be a chain. Freedom is for the chain, the rope, to break. Freedom is the wind, not the kite, albeit with all its ribbons and colours. The wind has no colour but blows or whispers where it wants. The wind can set the kite free if the rope breaks,' says **Vauro.**

Vauro Senesi, known simply as **Vauro**, is a journalist, writer, satirical cartoonist, and has made several reportages from Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Ukraine as an envoy. He has signed several books and collaborated with various newspapers including **Il Manifesto** and, today, **Il Fatto Quotidiano**.

He has also collaborated many times with television: with the news program **Annozero**, hosted by Michele Santoro; since 2011 with **Servizio Pubblico** on La7. For **L'aria che tira**, he edited the column *Il Vauro che tira*.



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Vauro Senesi per il Lovers Film Festival

È **Vauro** a firmare l'immagine 2023.

“Stiamo vivendo un periodo di immobilismo rispetto ai diritti della comunità LGBTQI+. Come se tutti fossimo attaccati a una fune.

L'immagine che ha pensato per noi Vauro e che ci ha donato porta invece con sé una speranza: che un giorno la fune si possa spezzare e che finalmente le nostre vite e la nostra dignità possano prendere il volo. Noi, con il cinema, cerchiamo di volare e di far volare il nostro pubblico con la fantasia ma speriamo anche che a questa nostra battaglia culturale possa seguire presto una battaglia politica: confido che potremo non solo festeggiare presto il quarantennale del festival ma anche il raggiungimento di nuovi traguardi sociali con la conquista di nuovi diritti” commenta la direttrice **Vladimir Luxuria**.

“Dicono. Dicono che l'aquilone sia simbolo di libertà. Vola, volteggia nel vento. Ma. Ma è legato ad un filo. Quel filo può essere duro come il pregiudizio, può essere resistente quanto l'odio, freddo come l'insofferenza. Quel filo può essere una catena. Libertà è che la catena, il filo si spezzi. È il vento la libertà, non l'aquilone, pur con tutti i suoi nastri e colori. Il vento non ha colore ma soffia o sussurra dove vuole. Il vento può liberare l'aquilone se il filo si rompe” afferma **Vauro**.

Vauro Senesi, noto semplicemente come **Vauro**, è giornalista, scrittore, vignettista satirico, ha effettuato come inviato diversi reportage dall'Iraq, dalla Palestina, dall'Afghanistan, dalla Sierra Leone, dal Sudan, dall'Ucraina. Ha firmato vari libri e collaborato con varie testate giornalistiche fra cui **Il Manifesto** e, oggi, **Il Fatto Quotidiano**.

Molte anche le collaborazioni con la televisione: con la trasmissione di informazione **Annozero**, condotta da Michele Santoro; dal 2011 con **Servizio Pubblico** su La7. Per **L'aria che tira** ha curato la rubrica Il Vauro che tira.

The **Lovers Film Festival** is powered by the **National Museum of Cinema** and takes place with the contribution of the **MiC**, the **Regione Piemonte** and the **City of Turin**.

You can download all the images at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GoJ-Qmfp1BoW3ZCcC_B1hgOgPT5NiUvg?usp=share_link



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The press conference of the Lovers Film Festival will take place in Turin,
Wednesday, April 5th 2023, at 11.30am, at the National Museum of Cinema
(Mole Antonelliana, via Montebello 20, Turin)

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