



IL MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
PRESENTA

38° Lovers Film Festival

PRESS RELEASE

**Europe's oldest LGBTQI+ festival and third largest in the world
directed by Vladimir Luxuria reaches its 38th edition**

(Turin, from 18 to 23 April, Cinema Massimo – National Museum of Cinema)

**6 days, more than 50 films in the program, 9 world premieres, 4 international,
3 European and 41 Italian**

**Among the many guests: Ambra Angiolini, Paola & Chiara, Rosa Chemical, Alessia
Crocini, Fioretta Mari, Alex Di Giorgio, Kodo Nishimura, Fabio Canino, Priscilla,
Vincenzo Schettini and Vauro**

**Presidents of the three competitive sections are representatives of some of
Europe's leading LGBTQI+ festivals
(Great Britain, Ukraine and Estonia)**

Lovers pays tribute to: Maurizio Costanzo, Lucy Salani and Raquel Welch

In Turin, from **18 to 23 April** - at the Cinema Massimo, the multiplex of the **National Museum of Cinema** - will take place the 38th edition of the **Lovers Film Festival**, the oldest Italian festival on LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex issues) directed by **Vladimir Luxuria** and founded by **Giovanni Minerba** and **Ottavio Mai** and, with this year's edition, also officially begins the three-year course that will lead to celebrate, in 2025, his fortieth anniversary.

*"We are very happy that the director Vladimir Luxuria is leading the Lovers Film Festival towards its fortieth anniversary – underline **Enzo Ghigo** and **Domenico De Gaetano**, respectively president and director of the National Museum of Cinema in Turin – An important path of rapprochement in a historical moment in which the rights of human beings are daily questioned. Culture and cinema are powerful and fundamental tools in the affirmation of rights and to convey messages not only of denunciation but also of hope, it is up to us to give them voice, places and spaces".*



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Vladimir Luxuria

For the fourth year, and until the fortieth birthday of the festival, Lovers will be directed by **Vladimir Luxuria**, activist, writer, television personality, actress, singer and playwright, also famous for his political activity. The director will be joined by **Angelo Acerbi**, head of the selection and by the selectors **Elsi Perino** and **Alessandro Uccelli**.

"If I had to find a concept to enclose the philosophy of this thirty-eighth Lovers, it would be sharing. Sharing emotions, physically together, bringing people to the cinema which is the most beautiful challenge we have. Share the beauty of thoughts and the beauty of the big screen. Projecting films that otherwise, often, would be very difficult to see. I am very happy because with this year we begin a three-year period of celebrations that will lead us to the fortieth anniversary in 2025. A rich calendar of events throughout all three years that will not have, thanks to the support of the institutions, Turin as the only location. And then, in addition to the films, the guests who will make us live a rainbow of emotions in the name of commitment, reflection, the fight for rights but ... also fun".

Guests

The event, as every year, can count on a rich *parterre* of guests (see focus on Guests and Program). To inaugurate the festival, Tuesday evening, at 18, in Mole Antonelliana the film and theater actress, television and radio presenter, always multifaceted, versatile and innovative **Ambra Angiolini**, protagonist of a talk with **Vladimir Luxuria** (mail dedicated to reservations from April 11 at 9: ambralovers@museocinema.it).

Also on the debut day of the Festival but at the Cinema Massimo, before the opening film, will be a guest **Alessia Crocini**, activist for LGBTQI + rights, president of the Rainbow Families Association that fights for the rights of boys and girls with LGBTQI + parents.

Prominent international presence: **Kodo Nishimura**, a Buddhist monk from Tokyo who began his career working as a *makeup artist* in the United States and collaborating on important events such as Miss Universe and NY Fashion Week.

In 2015 he completed the path to become a Buddhist monk and achieved notoriety by participating in the television program *Queer Eye: We're in Japan*.

As an activist for the rights of the LGBTQI+ community he has spoken at the United Nations, Yale and Stanford Universities, sparking the interest of the international press (CNN, BBC,



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ABC and *Vogue Magazine*). A Lovers, Wednesday 19 at 18, will officially present his latest book coming out in Italy and will explain his mission: to encourage and enrich others inwardly through Buddhist wisdom. And a pinch of makeup.

Eagerly awaited, Saturday 22 at 20.15, **Rosa Chemical** already model for Gucci, art & creative director and author of video clips, beloved by the public, who last February participated, for the first time, at the Sanremo Festival with the song *Made in Italy* already gold record.

Fioretta Mari has trod some of the greatest theatrical stages at national and international level alongside authentic myths, collaborating with actors, even of the big screen, such as Turi Ferro (of which she is nephew), Vittorio Gassman, Massimo Troisi, Leo Gullotta, Nino Manfredi, Ugo Tognazzi, Pino Caruso, Christian De Sica, Mario Scaccia. From September 2001, she further increases his notoriety alongside Maria De Filippi, since the first episode of **Amici**: more than twenty years teaching participants diction and acting. She will be at the Cinema Massimo on Thursday 20 at 7.30 pm.

The closing evening will have as exceptional musical guests **Paola & Chiara**, protagonists of the recent successful return to the scene at the Sanremo Festival.

For the first time the closing evening will also have a godfather who has become famous for being one of the protagonists of the last edition of "Dancing with the Stars": the swimmer, model and actor **Alex Di Giorgio**.

The scientific communicators and influencers **Vincenzo Schettini** and **Marco Martinelli** and **Andrea Martini**, co-director of the cartoon *Lampadino e Caramella* will be guests of the festival for **La Scuola in prima Fila** - a project of the National Museum of Cinema realized as part of the *National Plan of Cinema and Images for the School* promoted by the **Ministry of Culture** and the **Ministry of Education of Merit** - and will meet the students on 19 and 21 April 2023 at the Cinema Massimo.

The actor, presenter and author **Fabio Canino**, much loved by the LGBTQI+ community, also returns to Lovers. Friday at 18.15 for the panel that introduces the assignation of the prize **Reflections in the dark**.

They will be in Turin (Wednesday 19 at 19.30) also the famous face of many successful fiction **Giancarlo Commare** who this year is in the cast of the TV series Sky Original *Romulus 2*, of



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Here is not Hollywood on Disney + in the film *New Olympus*, directed by Ferzan Özpetek and the actor **Piero Di Blasio** protagonist of many shows including the musical *Alta Società* with Vanessa Incontrada. **Commare**, as the protagonist, and **Di Blasio**, as director, will debut on April 26 at the Teatro Colosseo in Turin with the musical **Tutti parlano di Jamie** based on a true story and is inspired by the BBC documentary entitled *Jamie: Drag Queen at 16*. The show, which already has over 1000 consecutive performances with more than 700,000 spectators in London, Tokyo, Seoul, Los Angeles, Sydney, tells the story of a teenager who decides to fight against all prejudices in order to realize a dream and get out of the darkness **Priscilla**, the most famous Italian drag queen in the world, also known for her commitment as an activist for the rights of the LGBTQI+ community will be **a regular guest** every day of Lovers. She hosted 2 seasons of *Drag Race Italia*.

Competitive sections

There are three main competitive sections: **All The Lovers**, the 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 representatives of international film festivals on LGBTQI+ themes to emphasize 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 Festheart, the first Estonian LGBTQI+ themed festival.

The **Torino Pride Award**, the **Giò Stajano Prize**, the **Forever Young Award** have also been confirmed together with the Forever Young jury and the Reflections in the **Dark** award (see focus Prizes).



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Movies

More than **50 films, 9 world premieres, 4 international, 3 European** and **41 Italian** for **6 days** of programming (see attached program).

Tuesday 19 at 21 in **Sala Cabiria**, the opening film will be **Chrissy Judy** by Todd Flaherty (USA, 2022), present in the hall.

We all have that friend who is "too much", always over the top, a drama queen. We can't help loving them, though. If this friend also happens to be a drag queen, then it is a real Chrissy and Judy situation. An ironic comedy, that looks deeply into queer culture (mainly American), analyzing its unique features and the relations between its members, which can be annoying (but also humorous). A glance at the challenges that gay men have to overcome in their search for love, social acceptance, romance, identity and at their triumphs.

The closing film, Sunday 23 at 21 always in Sala Cabiria will be **Trois nuits par semaine** by Florent Gouëlou (France, 2022), present in the hall.

Baptiste is a photographer living in Paris with his girlfriend Samia. Working on a project on drag queens, he meets Cookie Kunt, the queen of a popular cabaret, where she performs with other fabulous queens. Enchanted by a world he knows nothing about, he will discover Quentin, hidden behind Cookie, who will change his way of loving.

This fascinating picture of a night-time world, without prejudices, depicts a personality, a way of being – a whole universe – and the "sisterhood" that underlies it. It is a story about love and friendship, seductive illusions but also real feelings.

Tributes

Lovers, this year, will pay tribute to **Maurizio Costanzo**, a few months after his death, with the screening, Saturday 22 in Sala Soldati at 18, 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 received **2 Oscar nominations and won 3 Nastri d'Argento, 2 David di Donatello and won an award at the Golden Globes**, is set in Fascist Rome in 1938.



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The city is celebrating the arrival of the Führer visiting the Duce and, in a popular building Antonietta, destroyed by pregnancy and fatigue, opens the blackbird's cage that goes to rest on the windowsill of an apartment in front of his. That of Gabriele, a former EIAR announcer who is preparing his suitcase waiting to go to confinement because he is homosexual. While the radio continues to broadcast the radio commentary of the meeting between Hitler and Mussolini, Antonietta and Gabriele will mirror each other.

It will also pay tribute to **Lucy Salani**, an Italian activist who died on March 22 at the age of 99 and is also known for being the only Italian transgender woman to survive Nazi concentration camps. Saturday 22 at 16, in Sala Soldati, will be screened **Being Lucy** by Gabriella Romano (Italy, 2011), a documentary inspired by the autobiographical volume – *My name is Lucy. The Italy of the twentieth century in the memories of a transsexual* – which returns an intimate portrait of the same author, who lived the **years of fascism and the terrible experience of internment in Dachau**.

Finally, on Sunday 23rd with the screening of *The Myra Breckinridge Case* by Michael Sarne (USA, 1970), the 1970 cult movie based on the homonymous novel by Gore Vidal, which follows the exploits of transgender Myra Breckinridge (née Myron), the **festival pays tribute to the majestic Raquel Welch**, protagonist and eternal icon, here flanked by John Huston, Mae West, Farrah Fawcett and Tom Selleck, in his first small role as a toy boy.

Vauro Senesi for the Lovers Film Festival

He is one of the most famous journalists and satirical cartoonists, **Vauro**, who have signed the 2023 image of Lovers (see dedicated focus).



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Vauro Senesi will also be the protagonist, with Vladimir Luxuria, of a talk on his cartoons and drawings on LGBTQI+ themes on Friday 21 at 7.30 pm in Sala Cabiria.

The party

The highly anticipated closing party is also back: from the iconic name **Furore lovers** party, the party will take place on Sunday evening from Off Topic starting at 11 pm (admission 6€).

The **Lovers Film Festival** is organized by the **National Cinema Museum** of Turin and takes place with the contribution of the **MiC**, the **Piedmont Region** and the **Municipality of Turin**.

The images and press materials can be downloaded at this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hs44x8DQFGn6u7qDONPKUwNiMc3cxoxL?usp=share_link
are link

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