



IL MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
PRESENTA

38° Lovers Film Festival

PRESS RELEASE

38th Lovers, the **oldest LGBTQI+ festival in Europe and third in the world**
directed by Vladimir Luxuria
(Turin, Cinema Massimo – National Museum of Cinema)

THE PROGRAM OF SATURDAY 22nd AND SUNDAY 23rd of APRIL

Rosa Chemical and Paola & Chiara special guests

Grand finale for the **Lovers Film Festival** with a weekend full of films and guests. Much awaited guest at the oldest festival on LGBTQI + themes (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex, directed by **Vladimir Luxuria** and founded by **Giovanni Minerba** and **Ottavio Mai**), Saturday 22nd, at 8.15pm, **Rosa Chemical** already model for Gucci, art & creative director and author of video clips, beloved by the public, who participated last February, for the first time, at the Sanremo Festival with the song *Made in Italy* already a gold record.

The closing evening (Sunday at 8.00pm) will have the 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 became 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 closing film will be **Trois nuits par semaine** by Florent Gouëlou (France, 2022), present at the cinema. *Photographer Baptiste lives in Paris with his girlfriend Samia. For a reportage on drag queens he meets Cookie Kuntz, star, with other fantastic queens, of a very famous cabaret. Enchanted by a universe he knows nothing about, he discovers Quentin, the boy behind Cookie, who will change his way of loving.*



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THE PROGRAM

SATURDAY 22 APRIL

CABIRIA ROOM

14:00

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

THE PARADIS [R]

ZENO GRATON • BELGIUM/FRANCE, 2023, 83"

16:00

OUT OF COMPETITION

BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND

TREVOR ANDERSON • CANADA, 2022, 89'

Alberta, Canada, 1987. After moving from another city, Robin starts the school year in a new class. Being non-binary, Robin draws the attention of both the school bully and the most popular girl. Trevor Anderson's directorial debut is a funny and painful dramedy which pays homage to the visual style of '80s US cinema, while changing its narrative style. According to IndieWire it is "one of the 10 must-see films presented at the 2022 Locarno Film Festival".

18:00

REAL LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

LUCKY

LOREN DENIS, ANTHONY VIBERT • FRANCE, 2022, 87'

Lucky (aka Luc Bruyère) is a 28-year-old artist, performer, model, dancer and drag queen, living his life between Paris and Berlin.

Lucky is a tale of finding a true identity and of self-care. The protagonist shows us many sides of his life: disability, drug addiction, mental health, and divorce-related issues. Despite all this, Luc keeps on shining bright and walking tall.

Performance at the cinema of the protagonist of Lucky

20:15



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ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

ALMAMULA

JUAN SEBASTIAN TORALES • ARGENTINA/FRANCE/ITALY, 2023, 94'

Nino is considered a bad influence on the other boys of his neighbourhood and has to face homophobic attacks on the street. For that reason, Nino and his parents temporarily move to the countryside. Far from the city, Nino wanders in a forest that is thought to be haunted by Almamula, a monster which kidnaps those who commit sexual sins and impure acts. Nino's curiosity and impulses emerge in a world of whispers, untold desires and prayers. The sensual mysteries, hidden among the trees, become more and more alluring. A tense and magical debut film by Juan Sebastian Torales.

Opening: Vladimir Luxuria in dialogue with Rosa Chemical on the theme of fluidity in the world of music

22:30

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

SOFT

JOSEPH AMENTA • CANADA, 2022, 87'

Three queer adolescent friends find themselves in a difficult situation when they decide to sneak into a gay club in Toronto. To enter this promised land, insolent runaway Julien, lively Tony, and timid Otis decide to commit a minor crime, unaware of its indirect consequences: the disappearance of Dawn, Julien's guardian. The three young boys start to investigate, and make unexpected, disturbing discoveries about Dawn's life. This short debut film is intended as a sincere love letter to teenage friendship and a powerful proof of how persevering and adaptable the queer community can be.

Opening: Priscilla

Present at the cinema: Joseph Amenta, director of *Soft*

RONDOLINO ROOM

14:15

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

BONES AND NAMES [R]

FABIAN STUMM • GERMANY, 2023, 102'



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16:15

FUTURE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION

FLORES DEL OTRO PATIO [R]

JORGE CADENA • SWITZERLAND/COLOMBIA, 2022, 15'

HOW TO CLEAN [R]

SAL BARDO • USA, 2022, 12'

JUMEAUX [R]

INES CLIVIO • FRANCE, 2022, 16'

POLYWOOD [R]

ALESSIO MINEO • USA, 2023, 15'

A CORPS BRULANT [R]

LAURIANE LAGARDE • FRANCE, 2022, 14'

NUIT BLONDE [R]

GABRIELLE DEMERS • CANADA, 2022, 15'

18:15

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

LA AMIGA DE MI AMIGA [R]

ZAIDA CARMONA • SPAIN, 2022, 85'

20:00

REAL LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

ASTRO

NICKY LISA LAPIERRE • BELGIUM, 2022, 80'

It's been 7 years since non-binary director Nicky L. Lapierre told the troubled love story between Baby and Charlie. This story is the perfect starting point for a broader conversation on the creation of your own identity. It's an experimental and non-conventional documentary, which combines fictional elements, real life images, personal experiences and unfiltered thoughts. The result is *Astro*: a queer and nostalgic road trip which doesn't follow the traditional LGBTQI+ narratives, just like the lives of its two main characters.

Present at the cinema: Nicky Lisa Lapierre, director of *Astro*



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22:00

OUT OF COMPETITION

HÁBLAME DE TI [R]

JOSE EDUARDO CORTES • MEXICO, 2022, 97'

SOLDIERS' ROOM

14:00

FUTURE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION

I AM LEO [R]

TAJO HURRE • GERMANY, 2022, 17'

PAPER PLANES [R]

MICHAEL GLOVER SMITH, ALYSSA THORDARSON • USA, 2023, 17'

CLAUSE [R]

SCOTT HURRAN • UNITED KINGDOM, 2022, 6'

COMBIEN DANSERON SUR TA LANGUE [R]

LOUIS BARTHELEMY ROUSSEAU • FRANCE, 2022, 19'

PARAMORE [R]

ANDREA LAMEDICA, FRANCESCO MASTROLEO • ITALY, 2023, 20'

ROMANA GIOVENTÙ! [R]

FEDERICO CIANFERONI • ITALY, 2022, 10'

16:00

LOVERS CELEBRATION

BEING LUCY

GABRIELLA ROMANO • ITALY, 2011, 68'

The Lovers Film Festival's tribute to Lucy Salani shortly after her death. Based on her autobiographical book (*Il mio nome è Lucy. L'Italia del XX secolo nei ricordi di una transessuale*), this documentary gives us an intimate portrait of the author herself, who endured the years of Fascism and the dreadful experience of being interned in Dachau. The only Italian trans woman who survived the horror of Nazi-Fascism.



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She became a symbol of the Italian Transgender movement thanks to the inestimable political value of her life.

18:00

LOVERS CELEBRATION

A SPECIAL DAY

ETTORE SCOLA • ITALY, 1977, 106'

On 6 May 1938, Hitler is visiting Rome. Antonietta (Sofia Loren), wife of a state employee and mother of six, lives in a working-class apartment building. On that day, the family's bird escapes through the window to reach the apartment of a neighbor, Gabriele (Marcello Mastroianni).

Once a radio broadcaster, the man is now about to be exiled to Sardinia because of his homosexuality. While everyone is absorbed in the parade, Antonietta and Gabriele share their experiences, with a sense of bitterness and unexpected intimacy. In memory of Maurizio Costanzo, who co-wrote the screenplay.

Opening: Vladimir Luxuria remembers Maurizio Costanzo

20:15

FUTURE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION

FIN

FERNANDO REINALDOS • SPAIN, 2022, 10'

Over the last few years, Carmen has dedicated her whole life to taking care of her wife Rosa, who suffers from Alzheimer. Carmen hopes that Rosa will look at her again as she used to when they were young.

PENSADERO

MATÍAS DINARDO • ARGENTINA, 2022, 15'

Marco obsessively analyzes every detail of his life and has just broken up with his girlfriend. But what happens the day he meets handsome, carefree Galo? All the certainties of his existence are shaken.

THE SHIFT

AMALIE MARIA NIELSEN • DENMARK, 2022, 18'

In a refuge for struggling girls, Milo is secretly transitioning. Nicki, a care worker, is the only one who knows, and the only one who supports them through the difficulties of



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the process. But when Milo hears something they shouldn't have, Nicki's care is no longer enough....

AMERICAN ASSASSIN AMNÉSICO

MARK BLANE • PORTUGAL, 2022, 28'

You wake up in a B&B in Portugal but you don't remember who you are. Your university card reads Georgios. The plane ticket next to it, Jonathan. You have flashbacks. A T-shirt in your suitcase reminds you that Britney is the Princess of Pop. And this good-looking João, who is he?

ACCEPTANCE

MIK STOLZ • CANADA, 2022, 9'

The film features a group of teenagers at a house party: Kenna is the nerdiest of them all, with her weirdly-shaped glasses. One of her friends tells her that Matt likes her, but her mind is only set on Claire, her best friend. Who has left her too soon.

NINTH FLOOR ON THE RIGHT

ANDREA ROMANO • FRANCE, 2022, 16'

One evening, Lorenzo is getting ready to receive, for the first time, Marvin, a boy he really likes, in his apartment in Belleville. Marvin shows up with Thomas, a homeless man who needs a place to take a shower. Lorenzo doesn't dare say no...

Present at the cinema: Andrea Romano, director of *Nono piano a destra*

22:15

OUT OF COMPETITION

EISMAYER [R]

DAVID WAGNER • AUSTRIA, 2022, 87'

SUNDAY 23 APRIL

CABIRIA ROOM

9:30

AT THE CINEMA WITH BEBIS



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STRANGE WORLD – A MYSTERIOUS WORLD

DON HALL • USA, 2022, 102'

Avalonia, a distant land surrounded by an impenetrable chain of mountains, is dying, reduced to stagnation and the impossibility of growing. Jaeger and Searcher, father and son explorers, have been desperately looking for a passage through the mountains for years. During an expedition, Searcher discovers a mysterious plant capable of generating electricity, While Jaeger decides to continue alone in search of a way out, his son returns to the city with the plant, which will be the engine of rebirth. After 25 years, that energy seems to be running out: it's time for a new adventure!

In collaboration with Famiglie Arcobaleno

14:00

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

SOFT [R]

JOSEPH AMENTA • CANADA, 2022, 87'

16:00

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

ALMAMULA [R]

JUAN SEBASTIAN TORALES • ARGENTINA/FRANCE/ITALY, 2023, 94'

20:00

CLOSING EVENING

AWARDING OF THE WINNING FILMS

Opening: Paola and Chiara live, Alex Di Giorgio, godfather of the evening, and Priscilla

OUT OF COMPETITION

TROIS NUITS PAR SEMAINE

FLORENT GOUËLOU • FRANCE, 2022, 103'

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



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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.

Present at the cinema: Florent Gouëlou, director of *Trois nuits par semaine*

RONDOLINO ROOM

14:15

OUT OF COMPETITION

DESPERATE SOULS, DARK CITY AND THE LEGEND OF MIDNIGHT COWBOY [R]

NANCY BUIRSKI • USA, 2022, 101'

16:15

LOVERS CELEBRATION

THE MYRA BRECKINRIDGE CASE

MICHAEL SARNE • USA, 1970, 94'

A Cult Movie from 1970, based on the novel of the same name by Gore Vidal that follows the life of the transgender woman Myra Breckinridge (born as Myron).

After a gender reassignment operation, she claims to be the widow of her past self. She manipulates her uncle in order to obtain a job in his acting school, where she tries to overturn Hollywood's social agenda by introducing the concept of Femdom (female domination on male).

In memory of Raquel Welch, the star and eternal icon, with John Huston, Mae West, Farrah Fawcett, and Tom Selleck in his first role, as a toy boy.

18:00

OUT OF COMPETITION

LOS AGITADORES [R]

MARCO BERGER • Argentina, 2022, 102'

20:00

LIVE STREAMING OF THE CLOSING NIGHT

AWARDING OF THE WINNING FILMS AND PAOLA AND CHIARA LIVE

21:45



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OUT OF COMPETITION

ALL THE COLOURS OF THE WORLD ARE BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE [R]

BABATUNDE APALOWO • NIGERIA, 2023, 93'

SOLDIERS' ROOM

14:00

FUTURE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION

FIN [R]

FERNANDO REINALDOS • SPAIN, 2022, 10'

PENSADERO [R]

MATÍAS DINARDO • ARGENTINA, 2022, 15'

THE SHIFT [R]

AMALIE MARIA NIELSEN • DENMARK, 2022, 18'

AMERICAN ASSASSIN AMNÉSICO [R]

MARK BLANE • PORTUGAL, 2022, 28'

ACCEPTANCE [R]

MIK STOLZ • CANADA, 2022, 9'

NINTH FLOOR ON THE RIGHT [R]

ANDREA ROMANO • FRANCE, 2022, 16'

16:00

OUT OF COMPETITION/UKRAINE

HE. SHE

YANA KYRYCHENKO • UKRAINE, 2022, 7'

Artem tells us about the 2 complementary sides that make up his existence: everyday life, in which he is a boy like many others, and the experience on stage, where, in the guise of drag queen B, he gives life to a show able to enchant and seduce.

I AM MICHELLE



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OLENA SIYATOVSKA • UKRAINE/NETHERLANDS, 2022, 20'

A transgender girl would like to become a model: despite being quite popular on social media, she begins to feel more and more alone. During a trip to her home town, she realises what she really wants.

SIMEIZ

ANTON SHEBETKO • UKRAINE, 2022, 18'

Simeiz is a village on the southern coast of Crimea, currently occupied by the Russian army. In the Soviet era, however, it became an "underground" resort for the gay community with a small nudist beach and a popular night club.

UKRAINIAN QUEER FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM

REBEL QUEERS • UKRAINE, 2022, 30'

February 24, 2022. 6:31 am. A warning on the phone: "They have started bombing Kyiv. Don't panic". It is the beginning of new era, filled with fear and horror. A terrifying scenario, here seen from the point of view of queer people.

Present at the cinema: Bohdan Zhuk, programmer at the Kyiv International Film Festival Molodist and tutor of the Real Lovers jury

17:30

LOVERS CELEBRATION

PRAYERS FOR BOBBY

RUSSEL MULCAHY • USA, 2009, 89'

In this film based on a true story, devout Christian Mary Griffith (Sigourney Weaver) fights to "heal" her gay son, Bobby. Even though the boy wants to please her, he can't change: he becomes more and more depressed until he commits suicide. Devastated, Mary questions her faith. But the Church doesn't help her to deal with Bobby's death and, as a result, she tries to understand, on her own, her real thoughts about homosexuality. A painful journey leading Mary to become an advocate of gay rights. Even today, a devastating and heart-breaking film.

Following: Talk "Mothers": Vladimir Luxuria in dialogue with Alfredo Traiano, orphan, Rosaria, mother, and Michelle, transgender daughter

20:00

LIVE STREAMING OF THE CLOSING NIGHT



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AWARDING OF THE WINNING FILMS AND PAOLA AND CHIARA LIVE

22:00

OUT OF COMPETITION

PASSING THROUGH [R]

MIKE DOYLE • USA, 2023, 70'

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

The complete press kit and images can be downloaded at this link:

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

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