



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 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th

Wednesday, April 19th, starts the thirty-eighth edition of the **Lovers Film Festival**, the oldest festival on LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex issues) directed by **Vladimir Luxuria** and founded by **Giovanni Minerba** and **Ottavio Ma**, which **takes place from 18 to 23 April 2023** at the Cinema Massimo, the multiplex of the **National Museum of Cinema in Turin**.

Many special guests in Turin:

At 9.30 am at the Cinema Massimo, the scientific communicator and influencer **Vincenzo Schettini** will be the protagonist of the talk **La fisica che ci piace** for high schools, that will precede the screening of *Le Paradis* by Zeno Graton (France 2023). The appointment is included in the calendar of **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 and Merit**.

Prominent international presence: **Kodo Nishimura** (6 pm), **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, ABC and *Vogue Magazine*). At Lovers, Wednesday 19th at 6 pm, will officially present his



IL MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
PRESENTA

38° Lovers Film Festival

latest book released in Italy and will explain his mission: to encourage and enrich others inwardly through Buddhist wisdom. And a little bit of makeup.

At 7.30 pm will be guest of the Lovers 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 *Qui non è Hollywood* on Disney + in the film *Nuovo Olimpo*, 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 26th at the Teatro Colosseo in Turin with the musical **Tutti parlano di Jamie** based on a true story and inspired by the BBC documentary entitled *Jamie: Drag Queen at 16*.

THE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL

CABIRIA ROOM

17:30

OUT OF COMPETITION

PUNCH

WELBY INGS • NEW ZEALAND, 2022, 98'

Seventeen-year-old Jim is a promising young boxer, training under the relentless attention of his alcoholic father Stan. Jim's life outside the ring gets complicated when he befriends Whetu, a gay Maori who spends his days near the beach. Their friendship starts to grow into something more, making them the target for the hate of their small, macho, intolerant town. Suddenly, Jim's mapped-out future is jeopardized. A story about love, loyalty, and redemption, in which the beauty of the setting intensifies the harsh emotions of the plot. With Tim Roth.

19:30

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

ARRÊTE AVEC TES MENSONGES

OLIVIER PEYON • FRANCE, 2022, 98'

Novelist Stéphane Belcourt has agreed to sponsor the bicentenary of a famous cognac: it's the perfect opportunity to go back in time to where he grew up. After meeting Lucas, the



IL MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
PRESENTA

38° Lovers Film Festival

son of his first love, he will have to relive a fundamental part of his life. He will be overcome by a stream of memories: an uncontrollable desire, bodies that come together, a passion that must be silenced. And this is because when they were 17 they couldn't express their love for each other. Inspired by Philippe Bresson's masterpiece, *Lie with me*, a heart-breaking tale of a painful past, where memory recalls a long-lost youth.

Opening: Vladimir Luxuria in dialogue with actors Piero di Blasio and Giancarlo Commare. And the intervention of the scientific communicator Vincenzo Schettini.

Present at the cinema: Olivier Peyon, director of *Arrête avec tes mensonges*

22:15

OUT OF COMPETITION

LOS AGITADORES

MARCO BERGER • Argentina, 2022, 102'

Artur invites some friends to his luxurious villa for Christmas. Their days go by swimming, sunbathing, with jokes, games, drugs and alcohol. There is a lot of companionship, but the joyful camaraderie is often tinged with an oppressive machismo: gratuitous comments, homophobic jokes... and a feeling of something more. Something they can't fully accept and that must be kept hidden. Marco Berger is back, after the movie *Taekwondo* (2016). Through his unashamed voyeurism and keen gaze, he describes the interactions of a group of allegedly straight men, often problematic and unresolved.

Opening: Priscilla

RONDOLINO ROOM

18:00

OUT OF COMPETITION



IL MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
PRESENTA

38° Lovers Film Festival

PASSING THROUGH

MIKE DOYLE • USA, 2023, 70'

After experiencing the loss of many patients, front-line health professional Mike feels exhausted to the point he's reached his limit and he can't stand living with this pain. So, he decides to travel across the US to find himself and what he has lost during the past distressing months. Travelling all alone through the boundless American plains, Mike begins to have strange encounters and wonders if he is losing his mind or if something more sinister is going to overwhelm him. He will deal with the past by breaking the chains that imprison him, but...

Opening: Vladimir Luxuria introduces the book *Il Monaco sui tacchi a spillo* by Kodo Nishimura. Present the author, the translator Fabiola Palmeri and the publisher Giulia Bartucciotto.

Present at the cinema: Mike Doyle, director of *Passing Through*

21:00

ALL THE LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

BREAKING THE ICE

CLARA STERN • AUSTRIA, 2022, 102'

Mira is the captain of the local hockey team. She is forced to run her late grandmother's farm because her grandfather is severely ill. Her mother and brother have a hostile relationship where she feels the need to mediate. When Theresa joins the team, the world that Mira has built with great difficulty seems to fall apart...Clara Stern's debut film is a coming-of-age story which teaches us that you can lose the balance in your life and find it again in a different form, closer to the idea of who you think you are.

SOLDIERS' ROOM

17:45

OUT OF COMPETITION

LOVING HIGHSMITH



IL MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
PRESENTA

38° Lovers Film Festival

EVA VITIJA • SWITZERLAND/GERMANY, 2022, 83'

Patricia Highsmith is considered the queen of the thriller. Some of the greatest masterpieces of classic and contemporary cinema such as *Strangers on a Train* (1951) by Alfred Hitchcock, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999) by Anthony Minghella and *Carol* (2015) by Todd Haynes were based on or inspired by her novels. Thanks to the result of a vast amount of research into archives, diaries as well as interviews, *Loving Highsmith* is an intimate and engaging portrait of both the writer and the person.

19:45

REAL LOVERS/INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

BITTERSWEET BECOMING

POLINA TEIF • CANADA, 2023, 87'

After years spent dealing with her family's rejection, Karla Rae James, 60, is finally ready to transition from male to female. Polina Teif followed her for three years, the duration of her journey. The bond between the director and Karla allows us intimate access to a very complex process, full of pain and struggle. Showing her operations and the importance of time passing, *Bittersweet Becoming* is an incredible portrait of affirmation of identity and intergenerational dialogue.

21:45

OUT OF COMPETITION

DESPERATE SOULS, DARK CITY AND THE LEGEND OF MIDNIGHT COWBOY

NANCY BUIRSKI • USA, 2022, 101'

Midnight Cowboy was the first R-rated movie to win an Oscar, thus ushering in the New Hollywood Era. An absolute cult film, portraying the lives of the aspiring gigolo Jon Voight and conman Dustin Hoffman, who move against the background of a nocturnal and desperate New York. The must-see documentary explores the history behind this dark and difficult masterpiece to describe a revolutionary time, when a brand-new generation of filmmakers tore up the outdated rules of the Dream Factory with the help of brave, unique movies.



IL MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
PRESENTA

38° Lovers Film Festival

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

Press Office Lovers Film Festival

Management Consultant

Maurizio Gelatti +39 347 7726482 – m.gelatti@contesti.it

National Museum of Cinema

Press Office Manager: Veronica Geraci +39 011 8138509 – +39 335 1341195 – geraci@museocinema.it

Festival Area: Helleana Grussu +39 011 8138865 – press@loversff.com