



MUSEO
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TORINO

Lovers
Film Festival

PRESS RELEASE

The oldest film festival on LGBTQI+ issues in Europe and third in the world directed by Vladimir Luxuria this year celebrates its 39th edition

(Turin, 16/21 April 2024, Cinema Massimo – National Museum of Cinema)

6 days, 53 programmed films, 4 world premieres, as well as 6 international, 3 European and 28 Italian ones

Stella della Mole Award to Rupert Everett

Amongst the many guests: Maria Grazia Cucinotta, Nancy Brilli, BigMama, Alberto Barbera, Annagaia Marchioro, Carmen Russo e Enzo Paolo Turchi

Jury presidents: Roberta Torre, Luca Bianchini e Alexander Mello

The 39th Lovers Film Festival is dedicated to the memory of Sandra Milo

The 39th edition of the **Lovers Film Festival**, the oldest Italian festival on LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex) issues, directed by **Vladimir Luxuria** and founded by **Giovanni Minerba** and **Ottavio Mai**, will take place **April 16-21** in Turin, at the Cinema Massimo, the **National Museum of Cinema**'s multiplex.

*"We are delighted that Vladimir Luxuria is directing the Lovers Film Festival in this last edition before its fortieth anniversary – emphasise **Enzo Ghigo** and **Domenico De Gaetano**, the **National Museum of Cinema**'s president and director, respectively. "With her enthusiasm and sensitivity she is leading the festival to be increasingly considered as a crucial event for an authentic, equal and sensitive representation of the LGBTQI+ community. Once again, this year the selection is international, fully embracing the festival's historical vocation to give voice to film products from all over the world.*

There are two national productions in this year's selection, and we are confident that this number will increase over time to reflect the plurality of points of view and artistic



perspectives that interpret these themes in Italian cinema, making it a vehicle for inalienable rights".

Vladimir Luxuria

For the fifth year, and until the ending of the festival's fortieth anniversary, Lovers will be directed by **Vladimir Luxuria**: activist, writer, television celebrity, actress, singer and playwright, she is also famous for her political activities. She will be joined by **Angelo Acerbi**, assistant director and selection manager, and selectors **Elisa Cuter** and **Alessandro Uccelli**.

Stella della Mole Award

Rupert Everett, one of the most beloved actors of his generation, will be a **guest at the 39th edition of Lovers** for a series of events (see dedicated focus) and **will be awarded the Stella della Mole Award**, given by the National Museum of Cinema to those who have left an indelible mark on the world of cinema and beyond.

*"I am very honoured to be the artistic director of an edition during which the Stella della Mole Award is conferred on Rupert Everett, whom I got to know artistically thanks to many films, including Another Country, that was a milestone in LGBTQI+ cinematography, now also available in a restored version. I have met him in person during some Muccassasina parties in Rome, so it will be a pleasant reunion," comments **Vladimir Luxuria**.*

Dedicated to

The 39th Lovers Film festival is dedicated to the memory of **Sandra Milo**, our much-loved patroness of the 2021 edition. *"It was our pleasure to dedicate this year's festival to her, who will be watching us from a little cloud surrounded by angels and thinking 'don't cry for me, don't suffer, I'm doing fine' - declares **Vladimir Luxuria** - Sandra Milo was one of the nicest people I met in show business. Always available. Always enthusiastic. Not only we have lost a great actress, but also of a reference point for the world of cinema".*



The Guests

As in the previous years, the event can count on a varied panel of guests (see the focus Guests and Programme). Tuesday evening, at 6.30 p.m. in the Mole Antonelliana, the festival will be inaugurated by our 2024 patroness **Maria Grazia Cucinotta**, who will be the protagonist of a talk together with **Vladimir Luxuria**. Later that same day, they will also be the stars of the evening before the opening film at the Cinema Massimo. Arcigay national president **Natascia Maesi** will also be a guest at Cinema Massimo.

On Wednesday 17, after the Stella della Mole Award is given to **Rupert Everett** (at 3 p.m. in the Mole Antonelliana), **Angelo Perrone** will talk with Vladimir Luxuria at 5 p.m. at Cinema Massimo (Sala Rondolino). He runs one of the best-known press and management offices and has worked with Raffaella Carrà, Stefano Accorsi, Monica Bellucci, Kim Rossi Stuart and many others. At 7.30 p.m. (Sala Cabiria) the audience will be entertained by writer, actor, radio speaker, presenter and activist **Guglielmo Scilla**, Italy's first Digital Creator, who has become a spokesman for the Millennial generation.

On the 18th, **Rupert Everett** will come back to the theatre to introduce *Another Country* (Sala Rondolino at 5 p.m.). This day's guests also include TFF director **Giulio Base**, who will introduce the screening of *Reflections In A Golden Eye* (Sala Soldati at 5.15 p.m.) and comedian **Annagaia Marchioro** - also known for her television appearances on Tv delle ragazze and Propaganda live - who will star in a skit (Sala Cabiria) at 7.30 p.m.

The following day, at 5.15 p.m. in Sala Soldati with (free admission), **Lovers goes Europride** with the Greek activist **Fenia Kirkmali** (Europride Thessaloniki 2024) and **Mario Colamarino**, president of the Circolo Cultura Omosessuale Mario Mieli and spokesperson for the Roma Pride. This will be an opportunity to talk about Turin's candidacy to host Europride 2027. The evening's guest (in Sala Cabiria at 7.30 p.m.) will be **Paolo Camilli**, actor, comedian and content creator who has tackled topics such as gender controversy and intolerance, sexual discrimination, racism and hate speech.

This year, on Saturday, April 20, the rapper **BigMama** will be our special musical guest (Sala Cabiria at 8 p.m.). She is one of the most talented newcomers on the Italian music scene, fresh from her recent success at the Sanremo Festival. In the afternoon that same day the Riflessi nel Buio Award will welcome back **Alberto Barbera**, director of the Venice International Film Festival, and **Fabio Canino**, presenter and writer (Sala Soldati at 6.30 p.m.).



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Finally, on Sunday (Sala Cabiria at 8.30 p.m.), **Carmen Russo & Enzo Paolo Turchi** and model **Michael Nevola** will entertain in the **awards ceremony**. This year's festival will also have an exceptional patroness on the closing night: **Nancy Brilli**.

Our permanent guest for every day of the festival will be the Drag Queen **Tekemaya**, singer and vocalist for Muccassassina, Mammamia, Gorgeus, and many other clubs, who also represented Italy in Brussels at Cantando per l'Europa between 1999 and 2001.

The competition sections

There are three main competition sections: **All The Lovers**, international competition for feature films; **Real Lovers**, international competition for documentaries and **Future Lovers**, international competition for short films. **The three juries** (see dedicated focus) will be chaired by director **Roberta Torre**, writer **Luca Bianchini** and **Alexander Mello**, director of the Rio LGBTQIA+ International Film Festival. The Lovers Film Festival will also award the **Torino Pride Award**, the **Giò Stajano Award**, the **Matthew Shepard Award** and the **Riflessi nel Buio Award**. This year, the **Audience Award** is back. Viewers will have the chance to cast a vote for each main competition section: All the Lovers, Real Lovers and Future Lovers.

The Films

53 scheduled **films**, **4 world premieres**, **6 international**, **3 European** and **28 Italian** ones (see programme). On Saturday 20, at 6 p.m., the **only Italian screening** of **Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero** (Usa, 2023, 95 min.), the documentary by **Carlos López Estrada** and **Zac Manuel** on the life of the famous African American rapper from Atlanta. The film narrates the artist's first tour and draws a surprisingly intimate portrait, touching on themes such as identity, family, expectations and acceptance and being part of the 'Olympus' of queer black artists. Lil Nas X has unleashed a global storm with his bold portrayals of sexuality, having the audience and the critics wonder whether he is an artistic genius, an agent of Satan, a devious social media troll or, perhaps, all three. A tour, as told, that has also been a persistent physical and emotional challenge, from 'sell-outs' to homophobic attacks.

On Tuesday 16 at 8.30 p.m. in **Sala Cabiria**, the opening film will be **Duino** by **Juan Pablo Di Pace** (Usa/Argentina/Italy, 2024, 108 min.) There is a sacredness in falling in love for the first time: often an all-encompassing event that we can no longer relive once it is over. Matias,



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a 40-year-old Argentinean director, is struggling with an unfinished film inspired by his first love: Alexander, a Swedish friend he had met at an international school in Istria in the 1990s. When Alexander is suddenly expelled, Matias finds himself navigating emotions he had hidden from the world and from himself. A meta-cinematic coming-of-age story, based on a true one.

The closing film will be ***Te Estoy Amando Locamente*** by **Alejandro Marìn** (Spain, 2023, 106 min.). Seville, late 1970s: Reme is proud that her son Miguel is the first member of the family to enter university. But what Miguel really wants is to become an artist and sing in a popular TV contest. At a time when homosexuality was a crime, Reme discovers who Miguel's new friends are: the Andalusian LGBTQI+ movement, paradoxically born with the help of the Church and harshly opposed by the Franco authorities. The painful and captivating account of the birth of LGBTQI+ activism in Spain, which was critically acclaimed as the Iberian Pride.

Valentina Stecchi for Lovers Film Festival

Valentina Stecchi, cartoonist for the daily 'Alto Adige', signed the 2024 image of Lovers (see dedicated focus).



Valentina Stecchi will also be the protagonist of various graphic recording performances that will accompany the main events on Friday 19, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21.



The party

The long-awaited closing party also returns. The **Lovers Closing Party**, in partnership with Sodo, will be on Sunday night at Off Topic from 10.30 p.m. (admission €10).

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

Images and press materials can be downloaded at this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fBtnKokbEjIFJeIT4Bnl_-CQdPcDmcpq?usp=sharing

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