



MUSEO
NAZIONALE
DEL CINEMA
TORINO



PRESS NOTE

The winners of the Lovers Film Festival 2025
the longest-running festival on LGBTQI+ issues in Europe and third in the world
directed by Vladimir Luxuria

THE AWARDED FILMS | THE REASONS

(TO BE PUBLISHED NO SOONER THAN 6:00 PM ON APRIL 17, 2025)

ALL THE LOVERS/ OTTAVIO MAI AWARD FOR THE BEST FEATURE

Jury president: **Giovanni Minerba**

Queerpanorama by Jun Li

The poetics of each film led us to approach a work with strong cinematic and political significance, a work that uses corporeality as a tool to instill the desire for a utopia. To us, it was a discourse on identity that takes the form of a daydream.

REAL LOVERS / REAL LOVERS AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY

Jury president: **Vera Gemma**

Topli Film by Dragan Jovićević

For its commitment to researching repertory material and its ability to create an engaging narrative structure that hybridizes performance and reality. Particularly for its ability to challenge deeply-rooted preconceptions by engaging directors and actors in a lively and authentic dialogue.



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SPECIAL MENTION

Eros by Rachel Daisy Ellis

A heterogeneous picture composed of authentic bodies who self-represent by laying themselves bare and opening up through the screen such intimate spaces as Brazilian motel rooms.

FUTURE LOVERS / FUTURE LOVERS AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM

Jury president: **Raffaele Cataldo**

Next Door by Lukas März

For its language – somewhere between the grotesque and horror – capable of transcending genre boundaries, the jury chose to award a short film that intercepts and enacts fears and anxieties that we thought we had left behind, but which continue to live beside us instead.

SPECIAL MENTION

Solo Kim by Javier Prieto De Paula and Diego Herrero

The jury decided to give a special mention to SOLO KIM, a short film that, by combining personal life and social position in a double thread, tells a story of marginalization on multiple levels that goes straight to the heart.

TORINO PRIDE AWARD

Outerlands by Elena Oxman

Over the past few days, we have had the pleasure of watching films and documentaries of various kinds that have highlighted the plurality of issues that we deal with on a daily basis within our associations. Each feature film has helped us understand how long and complex the fight still is, especially at a time in history when the space for social and civil rights is shrinking. The film we chose to award highlights the complexity of our lives, of caring, of extended families, and of being able to recognize one's past in order to embrace one's future.

SPECIAL MENTION

The Secret of Me by Grace Hughes-Hallett

For its ability to convey the processing of one's personal experience by connecting it to others, to define pathways of a still relatively recognized subjectivity such as that of intersexuality.

GIO' STAJANO AWARD

Quir by Nicola Bellucci

For recounting with magical humanity and poignant cinematography one of Italy's most surprising Queer communities, living in the beating heart of Palermo, where Massimo and Gino have been welcoming and gathering into their large family for more than forty years people whose human beauty goes far beyond character. A genuine, beautiful and worthwhile film of great quality that tells queer and non queer stories in a Sicily where the testimonies of young trans and gay people give the dimension that so much has been done but so much remains to be done. One is either happy or complicit: this is the great lesson of Massimo and Gino.

YOUNG LOVERS JURY – MATTHEW SHEPARD AWARD

Lesbian Space Princess by Emma Hough Hobbs and Leela Varghese

For using a visual and referential language that looks in a direct, ironic and unobvious way at current events and the contemporary teen generation, through symbols, synthesis and important and urgent meanings, creating a film for truly everyone.

RIFLESSI NEL BUIO – REFLECTIONS IN THE DARKNESS

I Have to Run by Oleg Hristolübskiy

Because the darkness we used to see outside our borders is spreading more and more alarmingly around us, so that the focus on those who deny the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community outside and inside Europe is high and nothing is taken as definitively acquired.



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Lovers
Film Festival

AUDIENCE AWARDS

ALL THE LOVERS

A Night Like This by Liam Calvert

REAL LOVERS

Topli Film by Dragan Jovićević

FUTURE LOVERS

Next Door by Lukas März

The **Lovers Film Festival** is produced by the **National Museum of Cinema** of Turin and is held with the support of **MIC-DG Cinema**, the **Piedmont Region**, the **City of Turin**, **Fondazione CRT** and an extraordinary contribution from **Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**.

Images and press materials are available for download at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Wo8crcWMW3vmaR7EdKeeMzwqneAH1dGQ?usp=sharing>

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