



PRESS RELEASE

A year of Italian Cinema in TUNIS

THE BEST OF YOUTH

3rd MARCH / 10th DICEMBER 2008

organized by

MEDFILM FESTIVAL ONLUS

ITALIAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURE IN TUNIS

in co-operation with

FILMITALIA

sponsored and supported by the

MINISTRY OF ARTS AND CULTURE – GENERAL DIRECTORY CINEMA

in the European Year for **INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

MedFilm Festival presents “**A Year of Italian Cinema in Tunis**”, in co-operation with the Italian Institute of Culture and Filmitalia.

The event is part of a series of initiatives organized by MEDFILM INTERNATIONAL 2008, whose aim is to set up international events dedicated to Intercultural Dialogue, to support and encourage co-operation among Euro-Mediterranean countries and to promote Italian cinema in a rapidly growing film market such as the Mediterranean market.

In March there will be a special premier and a retrospective of 6 debut films and the initiative will go on throughout the month of December with a further 6 rendezvous for a grand total of **13 films** being screened and dedicated to Italian cinema. “*The best of youth*” is a retrospective, created by Filmitalia and Fabio Ferzetti, of a selection of 20 debut films of emerging Italian directors from 2000 to the present day.

“A Year of Italian Cinema in Tunis” will start from March 3rd-10th, with the following 6 debut films taken from the retrospective: Paolo Sorrentino’s **L’uomo in più** (One man up, 2001), Marco Ponti’s **Santa Maradona** (2001), Vincenzo Marra’s **Tornando a casa** (Sailing home, 2001), Francesco Munzi’s **Saimir** (2005), Daniele Vicari’s **Velocità Massima** (V-Max, 2002) and Saverio Costanzo’s **Private** (2004).

The week dedicated to Italian cinema will be inaugurated with the premier of the film **L’ABBUFFATA (The Feast)** presented by actors **Donatella Finocchiaro** and **Paolo Briguglia**. It is the story of four young friends who have a passion for cinema and who find the courage to shoot a film. The energy and the ingeniousness with which they attempt to build a different present and future for themselves enliven the small town where they live.

A YEAR OF ITALIAN CINEMA IN TUNIS – THE BEST OF YOUTH

www.medfilmfestival.org | www.iictunisi.esteri.it



In the Italian delegation there will be representatives of the Istituto Luce who will meet Tunisian distributors and producers, such as Habib Attia, Guest of Honor at the MedFilm Festival in Rome

The idea of the event in Tunisia came about thanks to the strong ties created, during the 13th edition of the MedFilm Festival in Rome, with some of the most important film representatives of Tunisian cinema. Tunisia was the Guest of Honor in last year's festival with a large delegation and many films screened. The Institute of Italian Culture in Tunis is also an enthusiastic supporter of the current cultural initiative. The latter and the MedFilm Festival pursue the common objective of promoting contemporary Italian cinema abroad (as an important part of our culture), notwithstanding the difficulties this poses. In fact, when reference to Italian cinema is made it usually concerns the "masterspieces" of the past, since the work of contemporary Italian directors is generally underestimated or not considered at all.

The mission of the Italian Institute of Culture in Tunis is to simultaneously promote Italian culture and intercultural dialogue with the host country, so as to raise awareness and mutual understanding.

In line with the many opportunities for **cultural exchange** which have marked the initiatives of the Institute and of **MedFilm** over the last 14 years, our current program, which is very rich and well-structured, is dedicated to increasing awareness and promoting the distribution of Italian cinema in Tunisia, by attracting both a large audience as well as producers, distributors, directors and institutional representatives.

Starting in April the project has lined up a series of monthly screenings: this initiative will bring our cinema to the southern shores of the Mediterranean in a country, such as Tunisia, which is expanding its cultural horizons and which looks to Italian cinema with great interest.

The project will ensure a well-organized and ongoing presence of Italian film in Tunisia by encouraging ties and co-operation between the two countries, since we firmly believe that cinema, through its wide variety of genres and narrative forms, can contribute to bring people from far away nations closer together as well as actively promoting long-lasting solidarity.

Last but not least, the involvement of **film professionals and institutional representatives**, as well as the opportunity of participating in a masterclass will attract many young people and will make the initiatives of MedFilm International a must for the greater audience and for film professionals alike. These initiatives make for a great opportunity to exchange ideas and to investigate new ways to develop the market.

In 2008 other rendezvous have also been scheduled in ALGIERS, ISTANBUL and ANKARA.



PROGRAM

All the screenings will be held at the cinema **AFRICART**

Monday March 3rd: PREMIER SPECIAL EVENT

Mimmo Calopresti's L'ABBUFFATA (The Feast)

The following actors will be present: **Donatella Finocchiaro, Paolo Briguglia**

4/10 March: "THE BEST OF YOUTH"

Paolo Sorrentino's **L'uomo in più** (2001)

Marco Ponti's **Santa Maradona** 2001)

V. Marra's **Tornando a casa** (2001)

Francesco Munzi's **Saimir** (2005)

Daniele Vicari's **Velocità Massima** (2002)

Saverio Costanzo's **Private** (2004)

9 April/ 10 December: 6 RENDEZVOUS WITH ITALIAN CINEMA

Every second Wednesday in the months of April, May, June, October, November and December.

Wednesday April 9th **L'aria salata (Salty Air)** by Alessandro Angelini, 2006

Wednesday May 14th **Non pensarci (Don't think about it)** by Gianni Zanasi, 2007

Wednesday June 11th **Dopo mezzanotte (After midnight)** by Davide Ferrario, 2005