

PRESS RELEASE

**ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL IN ISTANBUL
DECEMBER 4/10**

2nd EDITION

- > CINEMA ALKAZAR
- > PERA MUSEUM

IN COOPERATION WITH ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA DI ISTANBUL

PRESS MEETING: FRIDAY DECEMBER 4th, 11.00 a.m.

PERA MUSEUM – SMALL ROOM

Meşrutiyet Caddesi No.47 34443 Tepebaşı - Beyoğlu - İstanbul

Ten of the best new feature films of this past year, a selection of **documentaries and short films**, for a total of **25 films all with Turkish subtitles**, many guests, business encounters between professionals of the film and audiovisual sector: the **Italian Film Festival** organized by MedFilm returns for the second consecutive year to Istanbul between **December 4th to 10th**.

This is a regular event designed to facilitate cultural dialogue and mutual understanding between Italy and Turkey, to increase and boost the distribution of Italian films in Turkey and to encourage cooperation between the companies of both countries that work in the film industry and beyond.

The event, which enjoys the collaboration of the **Italian Cultural Institute in Istanbul**, will be held in two locations: the **Pera Museum** and the **Cinema Alkazar**. The wonderful cinema built in the 1920s will screen feature films, with Turkish subtitles, whereas documentary and short films will be screened in the Auditorium of the prestigious Pera Museum to emphasize the continuity of cooperation with Turkish institutions.

The festival is part of the project ROME-ISTANBUL: CROSSING THE BRIDGE, an important element of MedFilm's strategy that for 15 years, through a structured and continuous approach, consisting of meetings, exchanges and recurring annual events with Mediterranean countries, builds relationships and synergies that multiply the possibilities of contact and distribution of our films and, more broadly of the "Made in Italy" concept. In particular, since 2005 MedFilm promotes bilateral business cooperation and cultural twinning activities with Turkey through two annual events: the MedFilm festival held in November in Rome, with a permanent showcase of Turkish cinema, and the Festival in Istanbul dedicated to Italian cinema. These events are designed to convey through film, both the current image of Turkey, a nation with solid traditions that nevertheless, plays a major role in contemporary culture, and contemporary Italy, through its best films.

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Turkish film triumphed at the 15th edition of the MEDFILM Festival in Rome taking home the following two awards: **Mahmut Fazil Coskun's** *WRONG ROSARY* won the 2009 Artistic Expression Prize and **Yesim Ustaoglu's** *PANDORA'S BOX* won the Eurimages Italy 2009 award.

NEWS

> ACTRESS VALENTINA CARNELUTTI RECEIVES THE VIVIDENT SPECIAL FESTIVAL AWARD

The great success of both audience and press obtained in the first edition has brought new ideas and new alliances. Among the novelties of this year, there is the **Vivident Special Festival Award** which will be given to actress Valentina Carnelutti, one of the most vital and versatile talents on the Italian scene today.

Intense, capable of combining tragedy and comedy, satire and commitment, Valentina Carnelutti recitation in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, works internationally with Angelopoulos, Ridley Scott, Soderbergh, and in Italy with important authors from Francesco Maselli Paolo Virzi, Marco Tullio Giordana, not neglecting the new talents like Gianni Zanasi and Enrico Pau.

> AUDIENCE AWARD

The actress Serra Yilmaz, godmother of the last edition of the Festival, will announce at the closing night the film most loved by the public.

To find out what the Turkish audience likes and to obtain a cultural and commercial indication, at each screening, we will distribute evaluation forms through which the public can give its approval.

FILMS

Italian cinema of the new millennium is in good shape. This event confirms its rebirth and vibrancy by exploring life in multi-cultural and multi-faceted Italy, which is marked by micro and macro news events, small personalities and heroes, and described through the voices of new directors and established authors.

Director **Ivano De Matteo** will be present to meet the audience and the press on Friday, December 4th at the Cinema Alkazar, where his second feature film **LA BELLA GENTE (Beautiful People)** will be screened to inaugurate the second edition of the Italian film festival in Istanbul. Shot in four weeks and with a budget of 450 thousand euros, the film describes with sharp and modern simplicity the intellectual and bourgeois hypocrisy, by exploring the rules of respectability, which are difficult to set aside despite the apparent good will.

Many of the young authors at their first or second film have been chosen for their ability to impart a unique personal style to their stories. Along with De Matteo, we must mention other promising debuts like that of **Claudio Giovannesi's** **LA CASA SULLE NUVOLE**, winner of the Italy Award at the 2009 MedFilm Festival. Giovannesi's film is a melancholic comedy that explores the secrets of a family and of a generation on the run from its responsibilities through an original story of reverse emigration.

Another debut worth mentioning is **Federico Bondi's** **BLACK SEA**, which won various award at the 61st edition of the Locarno International Film Festival and at the fifteenth edition of the MedFilm Festival. The film brings together two important issues like immigration and old age in

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the rich but wary province of Florence. The events are described with poetic images and a meaningful screenplay co-written by Ugo Chiti, a major Italian author.

A multi-ethnic Rome is the backdrop to **GOOD MORNING, AMAN**, the debut of **Claudio Noce** who uses a fast and rhythmic narrative pace, suspended between truth and unreality, to capture the lives of two men far away, two lives united by destiny, and redeems them from resignation. With **EX (Many Kisses Later...)**, a sentimental comedy, **Fausto Brizzi** confirms at his third film, his ability to direct a box-office hit of very high quality, in which the anthology jokes and gags are enhanced by a number of good Italian actors.

Whether it is through the sharp lines of comedy, or through the dismal interiors of a personal drama, what always emerges is the filmmaker's quest to portray with authenticity, the sentimental and political state of a country which draws the strength to rediscover itself from its situation of historical uncertainty.

The common man comes out from this analysis with flying colors. He is in credit with life and, now more than ever, in every corner of the globe, he is no longer afraid to shout out his desire for redemption, and his will to grab on to his dreams, for a moment or for the rest of his life. **ALZA LA TESTA** is the closing film of the festival that will be screened on Thursday December 9th. The talented director, **Alessandro Angelini**, and extraordinary actor Sergio Castellitto, will both be present.

The films of established directors will symbolically accompany those mentioned above. In terms of private cinema, sensitive to the nuances of emotions, we would like to mention director **Giuseppe Piccioni's GIULIA NON ESCE LA SERA (Giulia Doesn't Date at Night)**. The film captures the unbearable loneliness that ties all of a sudden two worlds, that of a well-known writer and of a fascinating woman who has secret.

TUTTA COLPA DI GIUDA (Freedom), innovative for its cut and style, is an unusual musical comedy, set in a prison, with moments of non-fiction and digital animations scenes that confirm the qualities of the original and sensitive director, **Davide Ferrario**.

Two pillars of Italian cinema describe instead present day Italy. With **FORTAPASC**, **Marco Risi** confirms his vocation to narrate the true story of an Italian hero: Giancarlo Siani, a young journalist killed by the mafia in 1985. Remaining on the commitment front, **Citto Maselli**, the master of Italian political cinema, presents us with **LE OMBRE ROSSE (The Red Shadows)**, a merciless portrait of the decadence besetting the Italian left wing party. Maselli will also attend the screening on Thursday December 9th to meet the public and press.

Many documentaries and short films enhance the effectiveness of this snapshot of Italian society confirming the make of a country that for centuries has derived its strength from its complexity just like the magnificent and multi-faceted Turkey, the country hosting this event.

THE GUESTS

Together with **Ivano De Matteo**, who will open the festival with the **LA BELLA GENTE**, and **Alessandro Angelini** who will be present on the closing day with **ALZA LA TESTA**, actress **Valentina Carnelutti**, who will receive the Vivident Special Festival Award, **Claudio Noce** and **Citto Maselli** will also be present in Istanbul to accompany their films and be the testimonials of the 2nd Week of Italian cinema in Turkey.

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DISTRIBUTION MEETING: NEW PROMOTION AND DISTRIBUTION ROUTES FOR ITALIAN CINEMA IN TURKEY

MedFilm Festival 2009 is proud to present an important novelty for the 2009 edition: the ITALY-TURKEY DISTRIBUTION MEETINGS, aimed at increasing the level of knowledge of the audiovisual markets by professionals, and at promoting a more efficient distribution and circulation of films. The objective of this initiative is to develop business relations between audiovisual professionals, looking for new partners and new markets for the promotion and distribution of Italian and Turkish audiovisual products.

Thanks to the collaboration established with UNEFA, during the Week of Italian Cinema in Istanbul Turkish operators in the audiovisual sector will be given the opportunity to meet major international retailers of the Italian market.

In this way we intend to maximize the opportunities for cooperation between operators and the channeling of films and audiovisual products through all channels of the film industry.

The event was produced in collaboration with:
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