



## ROME FILM FEST

13 | 23 October 2022

### The programme of encounters at the 2022 Rome Film Fest

**The 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award winner James Ivory will be the protagonist of a masterclass**

**The two new sections Paso Doble and Absolute Beginners will feature guest speakers Luc Besson, Francesca Comencini, Gabe Polsky, Julie Bertuccelli, Paolo Virzì, James Gray, Stephen Frears, Mario Martone, Valentina Cervi, Sandro Veronesi, Francesco Piccolo**

**Authors Daniel Pennac and Annie Ernaux and photographer Nino Migliori will be on the stage of the Rome Film Fest**

The Rome Film Fest presents the programme of encounters for its seventeenth edition, which will take place from October 13<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Auditorium Parco della Musica Ennio Morricone, and involve many other locations and cultural entities in the Capital City.

James Ivory, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the 2022 Rome Film Fest, will head a masterclass in which he will review the most significant moments of his remarkable artistic career: born in Berkeley in 1928, the American filmmaker has directed thirty-two films, received four Oscar® nominations for Best Director and one Oscar® for Best Screenplay, in addition to a plethora of international acknowledgments for acting, screenplay, cinematography and production design for his films.

Two specific sections will be dedicated to the encounters with the public. Paso Doble will feature dialogues between two authors about the protagonists, the genres and the professions in cinema with special attention to new productions; in Absolute Beginners, established filmmakers will speak to audiences about their own film debut. In addition to these sections, the Fest will host a series of encounters relative to the screenings in the line-up of the Official Selection.

#### **Paso Doble**

The first encounter, titled “Bewitched by the big screen”, will involve two of the major Italian authors and screenwriters, Sandro Veronesi and Francesco Piccolo. Both winners of the Strega book award (the former for the novels “Caos calmo” and “Il colibrì”, from which the opening film of the 2022 Film Fest is adapted, the latter for “Il desiderio di essere come tutti”), Veronesi and Piccoli will speak to the audience about the relationship between cinema and writing.

“Where is the western headed?” is the theme that will be addressed in the Paso Doble featuring Francesca Comencini and Gabe Polsky. Comencini is the director of *Django – La serie*, inspired by the eponymous film by Sergio Corbucci, whereas Polsky is the author of *Butcher’s Crossing*, set in Colorado in 1870. The two works, which will be previewed at the 2022 Rome Film Fest, demonstrate the remarkable vitality of one of the most beloved of classic film genres.

The Rome Film Fest will present to its audiences the documentary “Jane Campion, la femme cinema” by Julie Bertuccelli. To celebrate the career and the work of the award-winning director from New Zealand, the audience is invited to attend the Paso Doble titled “Viva Jane Campion!”: the protagonists of the encounter will be the director Julie Bertuccelli and the actress Valentina Cervi, chosen by Campion at age nineteen to be a member of the cast of *Portrait of a Lady*.

### **Absolute Beginners**

French filmmaker Luc Besson will be at the Fest to talk about his first experience behind the camera, when he directed the post-apocalyptic film *Le Dernier Combat* (1983). The feature film, which was filmed in black and white and cinemascope for remarkable visual impact, inaugurated the director’s collaboration with Jean Reno and with composer Eric Serra.

Stephen Frears, one of the most highly appreciated English directors, will present to audiences his first feature film *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985). Courageous and innovative, the film – starring an emerging Daniel Day-Lewis – also marked the beginning of his collaboration with the Anglo-Pakistani author Hanif Kureishi.

After a lengthy experience in avant-garde theatre, Mario Martone made his debut on the big screen with *Death of a Neapolitan Mathematician*: this film will be the focus of the encounter between the Neapolitan director and the audience of the Rome Film Fest. Released in theatres in 1992, the film won many awards including the David di Donatello and the Nastro d’Argento for Best Debut Director and the Silver Lion – Grand Jury Prize.

The director, screenwriter and producer James Gray will meet with film lovers to review his debut on the big screen, which took place in 1994 with *Little Odessa*, Special Jury Prize at the Venice International Film Festival. Gray will be in Rome to present his new film, *Armageddon Time*, a co-production of the Rome Film Fest and Alice nella città.

Paolo Virzì, one of the most applauded and award-winning Italian directors, will speak to the public about *La bella vita* (1994). Thanks to this film, which will be presented at the Fest in a special “director’s cut” version with the restoration by Motorino Amaranto and Cineteca di Bologna, Virzì won the David di Donatello and the Nastro d’Argento as Best Debut Director.

### **Encounters**

On the occasion of the presentation of the documentary *Daniel Pennac: ho visto Maradona!* by Ximo Solano, the audiences of the Rome Film Fest may meet the famous writer Daniel Pennac,

who explored the figure and the influence of a modern sports legend, Diego Armando Maradona. Also coming to the stage will be writer Annie Ernaux, the co-director with her son David Ernaux-Briot of the documentary *Les Années Super 8*, which will be presented in the Special Screenings section. Finally, Nino Migliori (born in 1926) will meet the audience on the occasion of the screening of the documentary *Nino Migliori. Viaggio intorno alla mia stanza* by Elisabetta Sgarbi, who brings the works of the great photographer from Bologna onto the big screen.