



**ROME FILM FEST
18 | 29 October 2023**

Three new films in the Film Fest programme: to be screened *Gonzo Girl* by Patricia Arquette, *American Badass: A Michael Madsen Retrospective* by Dominique Milano and *Lucio Amelio* by Nicolangelo Gelormini

Three new films have been added to the programme of the 2023 Rome Film Fest. The announcement was made by the Artistic Director Paola Malanga with Gian Luca Farinelli, President of the Fondazione Cinema per Roma, and the General Manager Francesca Via. The Grand Public section will present *Gonzo Girl*, the directorial debut of Patricia Arquette, the cult actress winner of an Oscar® in 2015 for *Boyhood* by Richard Linklater and who has acted for filmmakers such as Tony Scott (*True Romance*), Tim Burton (*Ed Wood*) and David Lynch (*Lost Highway*). *Gonzo Girl* is inspired by the autobiographical novel of the same name by Cheryl Della Pietra in which the author writes about her insane experience as assistant to Hunter S. Thompson (the author of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*), the father of what is known as “gonzo journalism”, a style that combines elements of conventional journalism, personal impressions and narrative artifices. *Gonzo Girl* will star Willem Dafoe and Camila Morrone.

The History of Cinema section will feature *American Badass: A Michael Madsen Retrospective* by Dominique Milano. The documentary reviews Michael Madsen’s career from his early days on the big screen in films such as *Wargames* and *The Natural*, to the success of *Thelma & Louise* by Ridley Scott, not to mention his performances in some of Quentin Tarantino’s masterpieces such as *Reservoir Dogs*, the *Kill Bill* saga and *The Hateful Eight*. The long journey to discover his more than one hundred and sixty films was also made possible by the interviews with those who worked with him, including Tarantino himself, John Travolta, Ron Perlman, Charlie Sheen and Daryl Hannah.

The Freestyle section will feature the preview of *Lucio Amelio* by Nicolangelo Gelormini. Lucio Amelio represented a fundamental figure in the international artistic scene: it was he who in 1980 put Andy Warhol – the leading exponent of American pop art – in contact with the German artist Joseph Beuys; it was he who, only months after this memorable encounter, gathered together the most famous visual artists of the world in his native city, Naples, which was suffering the consequences of a terrible earthquake. Through direct interviews and materials from the archives, the documentary explores Lucio Amelio’s shimmering spirit: on the one hand a devoted host to artists, the pioneer of new twentieth century trends, who advanced theories and was at the centre of the debate on poetry; on the other a

Neapolitan businessman and genius who seized opportunities and read reality to conquer the world with Naples and have Naples be conquered by the world.

GONZO GIRL

by Patricia Arquette, United States, 2023, 107'

Cast: Willem Dafoe, Camila Morrone, Patricia Arquette, Elizabeth Lail, Ray Nicholson, Leila George, James Urbaniak

In the early 1990s, Aley, an aspiring young writer who earns a living as a bartender, agrees to assist Walker Reade, the father of *gonzo* journalism (the kind in which the personal perceptions of the author play a determining and innovative role), in writing his new novel, to overcome his writer's block. Set in the author's home in the Rocky Mountains, and inspired by the novel in which Cheryl Della Pietra writes about her experience with Hunter S. Thompson (the author of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*), the debut as a director of Patricia Arquette (the blonde end-of-the-millennium icon in *True Romance*, *Lost Highway*, *Boyhood* and the *Medium* series among many others) plunges into chaos, into excess, with the "larger than life" character of Reade (Willem Dafoe), the women who surround him (Camila Morrone plays Aley, Arquette the secretary), friends, managers, publishers. A sulphureous film, it is reminiscent of American films of the 1970s.

AMERICAN BADASS: A MICHAEL MADSEN RETROSPECTIVE

By Dominique Milano, United States, 2022, 84' | *Doc* |

The first time he came to our attention, all told, he was a good guy, even though he hadn't understood anything about his partner Louise (*Thelma and Louise*, 1991). But a year later, in 1992, here he is as a chill light-footed psychopath who dances *Stuck in the Middle with You* by the Stealers Wheel with a razor blade in his hand, ready to strike the policeman tied to a chair in the hangar in *Reservoir Dogs*: the unforgettable, deranged Mr. Blonde, the great Michael Madsen, the inscrutable face and ripped body in other films by Tarantino (*Kill Bill*, *Hateful Eight*) and more. The excellent documentary by Dominique Milano reviews his career through his films (more than 170) and the stories of the people who have worked with him.

LUCIO AMELIO

by Nicolangelo Gelormini, Italy, 2023, 75' | *Doc* |

Lucio Amelio represented a fundamental figure in the international artistic scene: it was he who in 1980 put Andy Warhol – the leading exponent of American pop art – in contact with the German artist Joseph Beuys; it was he who, only months after this memorable encounter, gathered together the most famous visual artists of the world in his native city, Naples, which was suffering the consequences of a terrible earthquake. On that occasion, the greatest names in world art represented the tragedy and contributed to the reconstruction, creating the document of an era: the exhibition "Terrae Motus". Amelio was the *deus-ex-machina* and the genius, the wizard who made the impossible possible.