



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

THE JURIES OF THE ROME FILM FEST 2023

The actor, director and producer Gael García Bernal will chair the jury of the Progressive Cinema Competition with jury members Sarah Gavron, Mikko Myllylahti, Melvil Poupaud and Jasmine Trinca

Paolo Virzì with Adeline Fontan Tessaur and Abi Morgan will award the BNL BNP Paribas Best First Feature prize, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu with Alessandro Aronadio and Lisa Nur Sultan the “Ugo Tognazzi” Award for Best Comedy

Gael García Bernal will be the president of the jury for the Progressive Cinema Competition, the competitive section of the 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 Francesca Via, General Manager.

The actor, director and producer, acclaimed by critics and audiences alike for his performances for directors such as Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Alfonso Cuarón, Pablo Larraín, Pedro Almodóvar and Walter Salles, will be joined by the British director Sarah Gavron, by the Finnish director, screenwriter and poet Mikko Myllylahti, by the French director Melvil Poupaud and the Italian actress and director Jasmine Trinca.

The jury will award the following acknowledgments to the films in the Progressive Cinema Competition: Best Film, Jury Grand Prix, Best Director, Best Screenplay, the “Monica Vitti” Award for Best Actress, the “Vittorio Gassman” Award for Best Actor and the Special Jury Prize, to be selected among the categories of cinematography, editing and original soundtrack.

The films participating in the Progressive Cinema Competition are: *Un Amor* by Isabel Coixet, *Ashil (Achilles)* by Farhad Delaram, *Avant que les flammes ne s'éteignent (After the Fire)* by Mehdi Fikri, *Black Box* by Asli Özge, *C'è ancora domani* by Paola Cortellesi, *Comme un fils (Like A Son)* by Nicolas Boukhrief, *En dag kommer allt det här bli ditt (One Day All This Will Be Yours)* by Andreas Öhman, *La Erección de Toribio Bardelli (The Erection of Toribio Bardelli)* by Adrián Saba, *Fremont* by Babak Jalali, *Holiday* by Edoardo Gabbriellini, *Hypnos (The Hypnosis)* by Ernst De Geer, *Mi fanno male i capelli* by Roberta Torre, *The Monk and the Gun* by Pawo Choyning Dorji, *Pedágio (Toll)* by Carolina Markowicz, *Peluri - Kuolema on elävien*

ongelma (Death is a Problem for the Living) by Teemu Nikki, *Un Silence (A Silence)* by Joachim Lafosse, *Sweet Sue* by Leo Leigh, *Uroctite na blaga (Blaga's Lessons)* by Stephan Komandarev.

Particular attention will be paid to young authors with the BNL BNP Paribas Best First Feature Award: a jury chaired by filmmaker Paolo Virzì, with the French producer and distributor Adeline Fontan Tessaur and the playwright and screenwriter Abi Morgan, will award the acknowledgment to a feature-length fiction film in the line-ups of the Progressive Cinema Competition, Freestyle and Grand Public sections.

The films eligible for the BNL BNP Paribas Best First Feature Award are: *Ashil (Achilles)* by Farhad Delaram, *Avant que les flammes ne s'éteignent (After the Fire)* by Mehdi Fikri, *C'è ancora domani* by Paola Cortellesi, *Cottontail* by Patrick Dickinson, *Dall'alto di una fredda torre* by Francesco Frangipane, *Gonzo Girl* by Patricia Arquette, *Hypnosen (The Hypnosis)* by Ernst De Geer, *Mother, Couch* by Niclas Larsson, *Palazzina Laf* by Michele Riondino, *Sweet Sue* by Leo Leigh, *Troppo azzurro* by Filippo Barbagallo, *Volare* by Margherita Buy.

The Rome Film Fest will also award the "Ugo Tognazzi" Prize for Best Comedy which will be attributed by a jury chaired by French actress Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu with jury members Italian director and screenwriter Alessandro Aronadio and Italian screenwriter Lisa Nur Sultan. The winning film will be selected among the titles in the line-ups of the Progressive Cinema Competition, Freestyle and Grand Public sections. The films competing for the "Ugo Tognazzi" Prize for Best Comedy are: *C'è ancora domani* by Paola Cortellesi, *En dag kommer allt det här bli ditt (One Day All This Will Be Yours)* by Andreas Öhman, *La Erección de Toribio Bardelli (The Erection of Toribio Bardelli)* by Adrián Saba, *Et la fête continue!* by Robert Guédiguian, *Hypnosen (The Hypnosis)* by Ernst De Geer, *Jules* by Mark Turtletaub, *Peluri - Kuolema on elävöien ongelma (Death is a Problem for the Living)* by Teemu Nikki, *The Monk and the Gun* by Pawo Choyning Dorji, *Mother, Couch* by Niclas Larsson, *The Persian Version* by Maryam Keshavarz, *Second Tour* by Albert Dupontel, *Sweet Sue* by Leo Leigh, *Troppo azzurro* by Filippo Barbagallo, *Volare* by Margherita Buy.

JURY PROGRESSIVE CINEMA COMPETITION

GABRIEL GARCÍA BERNAL

Gael García Bernal is an actor, producer and director. The first films in which he performed include *Amore perros*, Alejandro G. Iñárritu's debut film, *Y tu mamá también* by Alfonso Cuarón for which Bernal won the Mastroianni Award as Best Emerging Actor at the Venice International Film Festival in 2001, *The Motorcycle Diaries* by Walter Salles. He worked with Almodóvar in *La mala educación*, Gondry in *The Science of Sleep*, Babenco in *The past*, Meirelles in *Blindness*, Herzog in *Salt and Fire*.

After acting again for Iñárritu in *Babel*, he was directed by Pablo Larraín in three films: *No*, *Neruda*, *Ema*. In 2007 he made his debut as a director with the film *Déficit*. In 2016 he won a Golden Globe for the series *Mozart in the Jungle*. In 2018, with Diego Luna he founded the production company named La Corriente del Golfo, which has produced Bernal's second film as a director, *Chicuarotes*. In 2023 he starred in and produced *Cassandro*.

SARAH GAVRON

After earning a degree in Humanities, she began her career as a director making documentaries for the BBC and Channel Four: one of them, *Village at the End of the World*, was nominated for a Grierson Award and won the Margaret Mead Award. She made her debut with the feature fiction film for television *This Little Life*, which won her the Bafta tv, the Royal Television Society award and the Women in Film and TV Award as a first-time director. Her first feature film for theatres, *Brick Lane*, won her a nomination for a Bafta and the Alfred Dunhill Talent Award at the London Film Festival. In 2015 she directed *Suffragette*, written by Abi Morgan and starring Meryl Streep, Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson and Ben Wishaw. In 2019 she directed *Rocks*, which won the British Independent Film Award as Best British Film, in addition to two Bafta awards.

MIKKO MYLLYLÄHTI

The Finnish director, screenwriter and poet was born and raised in Tornio, in Lapland. He graduated from the Aalto University in Helsinki in 2012, and since then has worked as an independent screenwriter and director. The first feature film he wrote, *The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki*, was made by the director Juho Kuosmanen. It won the Un Certain Regard Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016, and was chosen to represent Finland at the Oscars® for Best Foreign-Language Film. Mikko's debut as a director, *The Woodcutter Story*, a black comedy produced by the Aamu Filmcompany and set in his native Lapland, was previewed at the Semaine de la Critique competition at Cannes 2002, and won the Fondazione GAN award for the French distribution. Mikko has directed short films such as *Love in Vain* (Locarno Film Festival 2009) and *The Tiger* (Semaine de la Critique at Cannes 2018). He has published four poetry collections, which have won many acknowledgments and critical acclaim.

MELVIL POUPAUD

The French actor, director, writer and composer began his career thanks to his encounter with the director Raül Ruiz who gave him his debut at the age of ten in *City of Pirates*, and with whom he would work in several films in the years to come, including *Trois vies et une seule mort*, *Genealogies of a Crime*, *Time Regained*. He rose to fame with *The 15-Year Old Girl* by Jacques Doillon, and appeared in films such as *The Lover* by Jean-Jacques Annaud, *A Summer's Tale* by Eric Rohmer, *Le Divorce* by James Ivory and *A Christmas Tale* by Arnaud Desplechin, who also cast him in *Brother and Sister*. With *Time to Leave* he began a collaboration with the director François Ozon which continued with *The Refuge*, *By the Grace of God* (Grand Jury Prize in Berlin), *Summer of '85*. He was also directed by Xavier Dolan in *Laurence Anyways*, by Angelina Jolie in *Bye the Sea*, by Roman Polanski in *An Officer and a Spy* (Grand Jury Prize in Venice), by Mia Hansen-Løve in *One Fine Morning*, and by Woody Allen in *Coup de chance*.

JASMINE TRINCA

Jasmine Trinca made her debut in cinema at a very young age in 2001, selected by Nanni Moretti for the role of Irene in *La stanza del figlio*. Two years later she was in the cast of *La meglio gioventù* by Marco Tullio Giordana, followed by *Manuale d'amore* by Giovanni Veronesi and *Romanzo Criminale* by Michele Placido, both in 2005. Nanni Moretti cast her again in 2006 in *Il Caimano*. In 2009 she won the Marcello Mastroianni Prize in Venice for

Michele Placido's *Il grande sogno*. In 2013 she was the star of *Un giorno devi andare* by Giorgio Diritti and of *Miele* by Valeria Golino, which won her the Nastro d'Argento. In 2017 she starred in *Fortunata* by Sergio Castellitto, for which she won an award for her performance at the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival, the David di Donatello and a Nastro d'Argento. In 2018 she played Ilaria Cucchi in *Sulla mia pelle* by Alessio Cremonini. In more recent seasons she has appeared in – among others – *Euphoria* by Valeria Golino and *La Dea Fortuna* by Ferzan Ozpetek, winning the David di Donatello and Nastro d'Argento as Best Actress. In 2020 she directed her first short film, *BMM – Being My Mom*, in competition in the Orizzonti section at the Venice Film Festival, followed by her debut feature film *Marcell*, in the Official Selection at Cannes. At the Rome Film Fest, she is in the series *La Storia* directed by Francesca Archibugi.

JURY BNL BNP PARIBAS BEST FIRST FEATURE FILM PRIZE

PAOLO VIRZÍ

Born in Livorno in 1964, he began to work at a very young age as a screenwriter before making his debut in 1994 with *La Bella Vita* (Nastro d'Argento and David di Donatello as Best Director of a Debut Film). His subsequent films are: *Ferie d'agosto* (David 1996: Best Film); *Ovosodo* (1997, Grand Jury Prize in Venice); *Baci e abbracci* (1999); *My Name Is Tanino* (2002); *Caterina in the Big City* (2003); *N - Io e Napoleone* (2006); *Tutta la vita davanti* (2008); *The First Beautiful Thing* (three David di Donatello, Nastro d'Argento 2010 Best Film and Best Screenplay); *Every Blessed Day* (2012); *Human Capital* (seven David di Donatello, six Nastri d'Argento); *Like Crazy* (five David di Donatello 2016); *Ella & John – The Leisure Seeker* (2017); *Magical Nights* (2018), *Siccity* (2022). He was twice nominated in the EFA short list as Best European Director and he twice represented Italy at the Oscars®.

ADELIINE FONTAN TESSAUR

After years of experience at Tf1 International, in 2008 she cofounded and directed “Elle Driver”, currently considered one of the primary independent film sales and acquisitions companies in the world. The 200 titles in her catalogue include *Terraferma* by Emanuele Crialesi (Grand Jury Prize in Venice 2011), *Miss Violence* by Alexandros Avranas (Silver Lion as Best Director in Venice 2013), *20 Feet from Stardom* by Morgan Neville (Oscar® 2014 for Best Documentary), *La diseducazione di Cameron Post* by Desiree Akhavan (Grand Jury Prize at Sundance 2018), *Piranhas* by Claudio Giovannesi (Silver Bear for Best Screenplay in 2019), *La tour* by Guillaume Nicloux (Rome Film Fest 2022). Adeline Fontan Tessaur is a member of Unifrance, of the Académie des César and the CNC and SOFICA Commissions for the assessment of projects by debut filmmakers and recognized authors.

ABI MORGAN

Abi Morgan is a playwright and screenwriter who can boast numerous acknowledgments. She has written plays such as *Skinned*; *Sleeping Around*; *Splendour* (produced by the Paines Plough company); *Tiny Dynamite* (Traverse Theatre); *Tender* (Hampstead Theatre); *Fugee* (National Theatre); *Love Song* (produced by Frantic Assembly); *27* (National Theatre of Scotland); *The Mistress Contract* (Royal Court Theatre). For television she has written films

(*My Fragile Heart*, *White Girl*, *Royal Wedding*) and series (*Murder*, *Sex Traffic*, *Tsunami*, *The Hour*, *Birdsong*, *River*, *The Split*). She is currently working on a new television series, *Eric*, with Benedict Cumberbatch, which will come to Netflix in 2024. She wrote the screenplays for *Brick Lane*, *The Iron Lady*, *Shame*, *The Invisible Woman*, *Suffragette*. Her work for cinema and television has also won her two Bafta awards and an Emmy. Her first book, *This is Not a Pity Memoir*, published by John Murray Press in the United Kingdom and by Sugar 25 in the United States, has become a Sunday Times bestseller.

JURY "UGO TOGNAZZI" FOR BEST COMEDY

ALESSANDRO ARONADIO

With a degree in Psychology, after studying filmmaking in Los Angeles, he made his debut in 2010 with *One Life Maybe Two*, selected for the Berlin Film Festival and later presented at more than fifty festivals, winning around fifteen awards including a Nastro d'Argento for Isabella Ragonese. In 2016 he wrote and directed the indie comedy *Orecchie*, which since its debut at the Venice International Film Festival was deemed a cult film, winning critical and audience acclaim and playing in theatres for four months. Distributed abroad as well, the film won many acknowledgments including three awards at the Venice Film Festival, the Ciak d'Oro Colpo di Fulmine 2017, plus a nomination for a Nastro d'Argento. In 2018 he directed *Io C'è*, an irreverent comedy on the theme of religion. The film earned two nominations for a Nastro d'Argento and three nominations for the Kineo Awards. In 2022 his film *Still Time* had its world premiere at the Rome Film Festo. The film, later distributed by Netflix, was an immediate hit, and soon became the most widely seen non-English language film in the world. A screenwriter as well as a director, Aronadio has also written films for other directors including *Che vuoi che sia* by Edoardo Galea, *Gli uomini d'oro* by Vincenzo Alfieri and *Una note da dottore* by Guido Chiesa.

PHILIPPINE LEROY-BEAULIEU

Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu began her film career with *Surprise Party*. Her career exploded in 1985 when she starred in *Three Men and a Cradle* by Coline Serreau in the role of Sylvia, which won her a nomination for a César as "Best Debut Actress". She then appeared in the film *The Possessed* by Andrzej Wajda alongside Isabelle Huppert; *The French Revolution* by Robert Enrico and Richard T. Heffron; *Neuf mois* by Patrick Braoudé; *The Green Planet* by Coline Serreau beside Marion Cotillard; *Two Brothers* by Jean-Jacques Annaud; *Eternity* by Tran Anh Hung beside Mélanie Laurent. Between 2015 and 2018, she acted in the series *Ten Percent*. Since 2020, she has played the role of Sylvie Grateau in the series *Emily in Paris* on Netflix with Lily Collins.

LISA NUR SULTAN

Lisa Nur Sultan is a playwright, screenwriter and author for cinema, television and radio. Born in 1980 to an Italian mother and a father from Jordan, she studied Economics for art, culture and communication at the Bocconi in Milan. In 2008 she wrote and staged *Brugole* for the theatre, which won the Nuove Sensibilità award at the Napoli Teatro Festival, the Eceplast award for research in playwriting, the Girulà award for Best Play and a Special Mention at the Bando Storie di Lavoro. Between 2012 and 2015 she was a writer for Serena

Dandini for the show *The Show Must Go Off* broadcast on La7 and the radio show *Stai serena* on Rai Radio 2. Her second play for the theatre, *Fuorigioco* was written in 2015 and published in French by the University of Toulouse-Jean Jaurès. It was performed by the university theatre company "I Chiassosi" as part of the Festival Universcènes 2017. In 2018 she made her debut as a screenwriter for cinema with the film *Sulla mia pelle*, directed by Alessio Cremonini, followed by the films *Saremo giovani e bellissimi* by Letizia Martire, *7 donne e un mistero* by Alessandro Genovesi and *Beata te* by Paola Randi. For television she wrote the series *Non mentire* (directed by Gianluca Maria Tavarelli), *Studio Battaglia* (directed by Simone Spada), *Circeo* (directed by Andrea Molaioli) and *Call My Agent – Italia* (directed by Luca Ribuoli)