



23<sup>rd</sup> ShorTS International Film Festival

Trieste, 1 - 9 July 2022

**Maremetraggio Section at ShorTS International Film Festival announced,  
the competition for shorts from all over the world**

The **81 shorts** - including fiction, documentaries and animation - in competition in the **Maremetraggio section** of the upcoming **ShorTS International Film Festival**, directed this year by **Maurizio Di Rienzo** and scheduled from 1 to 9 July in Trieste, come from **45 different countries** and are to offer a **broad overview of the energy of this film idiom**.

**A programme spanning eight evenings**, at the **Giardino Pubblico Muzio de Tommasini**, in which to see these **81 high-quality shorts** that are prime examples of **cultural richness, exploration of form** and the pleasure of **telling and sharing stories**, structured according to a **variety of themes and aesthetics**.

The shorts will be judged by a truly outstanding **international jury**, composed of Egypt's **Sameh Alaa** (director) who last year with *I Am Afraid to Forget Your Face* won the Maremetraggio competition and the Palme d'Or at Cannes for best short, the Lebanese **Nicolas Khabbaz** (artistic director of the Beirut Shorts International Film Festival, festival programmer and producer) and the Israeli **Ella Kohn** (director). These are people who, despite living in countries that unfortunately are in political and ideological conflict, recognise and appreciate each other not only professionally.

The films in competition at ShorTS include Mark Albiston's ***Datsun*** (New Zealand, 2021), to be premiered nationally. A wild journey filled with near misses, euphoria, courage, fear, devastation and empowerment as experienced by two teenagers. ***Über Wasser/On Solid Ground*** by the promising Jela Hasler (Switzerland, 2021), which reflects on the seemingly trivial daily aggression to which women are exposed and was presented last year at Cannes. ***Warsha*** by Dania Bdeir (Lebanon, France, 2022), a story set in Beirut, where Mohammad, a quiet, calm and reserved man, is looking for a space of freedom that will allow him to express himself. ***Nitty-Gritty Punjab Police*** by Kabir Mehta (India, 2021, 12'), a hybrid work incorporating found footage, memoirs, mockumentary and dance video set in the Punjab and denouncing police brutality. ***Techno, Mama*** by Saulius Baradinskas (Lithuania, 2021), a film shot with a mobile phone that explores two generations - the lead players are teenager Nikita and her mother, unable to find a way to love each other, a story of kids who missed out on childhood because their dreams were shattered in post-Soviet urban backyards, and Marija Apcevska's ***Severen pol/North Pole*** (Macedonia, Serbia, 2021), a moving portrait of teenage discoveries and the narrow gap that separates childhood from the difficult entry into the world of adults, in competition last year at Cannes.

Participation by Italy includes the documentary ***Terra dei padri/Fathers' Land*** by Francesco Di Gioia (Italy, 2021), which blends archive material with the verses of Libyan poet Fadil Hasin Ash-Shalmani, to recount the deportation of numerous civilians during the early years of the Italian occupation of Libya. ***Chiusi fuori*** by Giorgio Testi (Italy, 2021), a short with Stefano Accorsi and Colin Firth on the wounds that lockdown has inflicted on the world of culture and theatre in particular, and ***Being My Mom*** by Jasmine Trinca (Italy, 2020), a metaphorical walk through the existence of two women, a mother and a daughter, two protagonists who are only protagonists of their own lives, a debut work by Jasmine Trinca with Alba Rohrwacher.

Animation is represented by ***Homebird*** by Ewa Smyk (UK, 2021), a work produced using the technique of painting on cel using thousands of felt-tip pens, tubes of paint and sheets of acetate, and ***Le bourreau chez lui/The Hangman at Home*** by Michelle Kranot, Uri Kranot (France, Denmark, Canada, 2021), a film inspired by Carl Sandburg's 1922 poem of the same name and the work of two top names in world animation, which explores themes surrounding recognition and the awkward intimacy of humanity.

Also noteworthy is Leonardo Martinelli's ***Fantasma Neon/Neon Phantom*** (Brazil, 2021), winner of the Pardino d'Oro for best short at the last Locarno Festival, which revisits with critical irony the typical places of the Hollywood musical through the story of João, a young rider who dreams of a new motorbike. Underneath the humorous exterior, an implacable portrait of life in the age of the gig economy.

The **section** is **curated** by **Massimiliano Nardulli**, who says: "*From the very first screenings, you will be hit by a wave of first-rate films that use different idioms and styles, a good representation of the incredible multiple forms of shorts today. If there is perhaps one point we should stress, it is that these works have a natural function: that of bringing people together in the act, which we like to define as almost sacred, of viewing them*".

The 81 works in the contest will compete for the **Premio EstEnergy/Gruppo Hera** for the **best short**, a prize of **5,000 euros**, and the **Premio AcegasApsAmga** of **3,000 euros** for the **best Italian short** (which will again be awarded by a jury made up entirely of employees of the group at the end of a training course to begin on 18 May with a masterclass by director Davide del Degan). They are joined by the **Premio Mymovies.it** for the best **Italian premiere in competition**, **Premio AMC** for best Italian editing, **Premio Shorts TV** which consists in the acquisition of the TV and VOD rights licence for a short and **Premio Bazzara Caffè** to be awarded to the best short as voted for by the public.

*ShorTS International Film Festival is organised thanks to the culture ministry – general film directorate, the Friuli Venezia Giulia regional authority- department of culture, Friuli Venezia Giulia regional authority – manufacturing and tourism department, Trieste City Council, Fondazione CRTrieste, Fondazione K. F. Casali, EstEnergy – Gruppo Hera, AcegasApsAmga, Bazzara Caffè.*

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[www.maremetraggio.com](http://www.maremetraggio.com)

**ShorTS International Film Festival Press Office**