



ShorTS International Film Festival

23rd edition/ Trieste, 1 - 9 July 2022

23rd ShorTS IFF presented

Awards for Gabriele Mainetti, Aurora Giovinazzo and Teresa Saponangelo, who will be guests of the Festival and will meet with the public.

Everything is ready for the **23rd ShorTS International Film Festival**, the film event organised by the Associazione Maremetraggio, chaired by Chiara Valenti Omero, and directed by Maurizio di Rienzo, scheduled in **Trieste from 1 to 9 July**.

The Festival is to take place in three locations in Trieste: the **Giardino Pubblico Muzio de Tommasini**, where the crucial evening screenings of the Maremetraggio section shorts and EFA - European Film Academy in Tour shorts will be held, and the **Teatro Miela**, where the feature film section Nuove Impronte, the Shorter Kids'n'Teens and the Focus Israele will be presented. At the Miela, the awards of the competitions and those for actors and directors will be given out, while the **Casa del Cinema** will host the ShorTS Virtual Reality section and the workshops-courses dedicated to virtual reality and shorts.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the **MYmoviesONE** platform, it will be possible to view online a national preview of some short films from the Maremetraggio section and others from the Shorter Kids'n'Teens section.

Guests and awards at the 23rd ShorTS IFF

On **Friday 8 July at 8.00 p.m.** at the **Teatro Miela** there will be two important presences to be honoured one after the other, the well-established director **Gabriele Mainetti** and the revelation actress **Aurora Giovinazzo** in that they are linked by the same film, *Freaks Out* (Competition at the Venice Film Festival 2021), winner at the David di Donatello 2022 in the categories of production, photography, set design, make-up, hairstyling, visual effects and at the recent Nastri d'Argento for set design, costumes and editing.

ShorTS IFF 2022 is to award **Aurora Giovinazzo** the **Premio Prospettiva** instituted in 2009 to highlight up-and-coming talents in Italian cinema (it has been awarded to Alba Rohrwacher, Luca Marinelli, Michele Riondino, Matilda De Angelis, Daphne Scoccia, Francesco Di Napoli, Giulio Pranno and Luka Zunic, among others). The actress will be lead guest at a public meeting compered by journalist Elisa Grando, followed by the director, producer, screenwriter, musician **Gabriele Mainetti**, to whom the

Festival is to award the **Premio Cinema del Presente** for his inventive and eclectic auteur's outlook, an acknowledgement that since 2019 highlights the talent of an Italian filmmaker (previous prize-winners include Alessio Cremonini, Saverio Costanzo, Alice Rohrwacher). Mainetti will be interviewed by ShorTS director Maurizio di Rienzo.

Three films by Mainetti will follow this important evening at the Miela: the shorts with several awards, also in Trieste, **Basette** (2008) and **Tiger Boy** (2012), and the ambitious and spectacular aforementioned **Freaks Out** (2021), the director's second feature film, written in tandem with his lifelong friend and screenwriter Nicola Guaglianone. The film, set in a troubled Rome of 1943, occupied by the Nazis, recounts the daring adventures of four 'monsters' (freaks), working in a circus because they are endowed with exceptional abilities: Matilde (Aurora Giovinazzo), Cencio (Pietro Castellitto), Fulvio (Claudio Santamaria), Mario (Giancarlo Martini). This unusual circus is led by Israel (Giorgio Tirabassi), the paternal figure holding this freak family together and trying to survive in this war-torn world. The freaks will have to fight on the run for Rome against dark forces that want to use their superpowers, but the trust that binds them deeply will help them survive sinister events that could change the course of history...

Still on the subject of awards, this year's ShorTS institutes the **Premio Attrice Presente** that on **Saturday 9 July at 8.00 pm** at the **Teatro Miela** will go to the actress of great talent, in terms of technique and grit, **Teresa Saponangelo** (Nastro d'Argento 2021 for Antonio Capuano's *Il buco in testa* and capable this year of winning both the David di Donatello and the Nastro d'Argento thanks to the magnificent vitality of the Neapolitan mother and wife depicted in the autobiographical *È stata la mano di Dio* by Paolo Sorrentino). Saponangelo will discuss her work and her choices with Maurizio di Rienzo.

This will be followed by the screening of ***Il buco in testa*** (2020), a film inspired by the story of Antonia Custra, daughter of vice-brigadier Antonio Custra killed in Milan on 14 May 1977 after being shot in the head during an extreme left-wing demonstration. Born two months after her father's death, the daughter, then a grown woman, in 2007 decided to meet her parent's murderer, who in the meantime had served his sentence...

The ShorTS IFF sections

81 short films are competing in the **Maremetraggio section**, 11 of which are made in Italy, offering a broad overview of the vitality of this cinematic idiom. Of great significance is the composition of the jury for this section, whose members are Egypt's Sameh Alaa, Israeli Ella Kohn and Lebanese Nicolas Khabbaz (people who, despite living in nations that are unfortunately in political and ideological conflict, know and appreciate each other not only professionally). The contending works will compete for the **Premio Estenergy/Gruppo Hera** for the **best short film** consisting of **5,000 euros** and the **Premio AcegasApsAmga** of **3,000 euros** for the **best Italian short film** (which will again be awarded by a jury entirely made up of employees of the group - together with their children - at the end of a training course held by the directors Davide del Degan and Edoardo Natoli). In addition to which there will also be the **Premio Bazzara Caffè** which will be awarded to **the best short film voted by the public**; the **Premio AMC** for the **best Italian editing**; the **Premio Shorts TV** which consists in the **acquisition of the TV and VOD rights licence** for a **short film** and the **Premio MYmovies** for the **best Italian premiere in competition**.

7 feature films will be in competition in the **Nuove Impronte section** curated by Beatrice Fiorentino with Massimo Causo, aimed at discovering talents from the world of independent cinema, which will present works from the USA, France, Portugal, Greece, Latvia, Romania, Turkey and Italy (the documentary *Rue Garibaldi* by Federico Francioni) by directors making their debut. In the young jury of Nuove Impronte are award-winning directors Laura Samani (*Piccolo corpo*) and Haider Rashid (*Europa*) and actress Maria Roveran. The films in the section will compete for the **Premio al miglior lungometraggio**, the **audience award** and the one awarded by the **SNCCI** (Italian union of film critics) whose jury is composed of Giuseppe Gariazzo, Paola Olivieri and Ignazio Senatore.

The **Shorter Kids'n'Teens section** is entirely dedicated to children and young people. With **23 shorts**, it is a sort of "festival within the festival" curated by Manuela Morana, whose aim is to introduce the languages and techniques of short films to very young people, pre-selected in an introductory course to cinema, as themselves selectors of ten shorts for kids aged 8 to 11 and teens aged 12 to 13 and who later become jury members as in a proper festival. The 23 short films are competing for the **Premio Shorter Kids**, the **Premio Shorter Teens** and the **Premio Mymovies** for the best Italian premiere voted by the public. In the same section the **Share the Future contest** is presented, in collaboration with EstEnergy - Gruppo Hera, which will award a prize of a latest-generation iPhone to the image that best represents a solar panel with a new and creative colour and shape, capable of making cities powered by the sun more beautiful.

The Festival looks to the technological-narrative future with the enduring competitive section **ShortS Virtual Reality: 8 works** this year can be viewed by appointment equipped with special visors in a single environment for a contemporary individual/collective experience; a **VR workshop** on this new form of cinema is also planned, in collaboration with AcegasApsAmga.

Shorts again in two showcase areas of absolute importance: ShortS is one of the few festivals to host a selection of **EFA-European Film Academy in Tour shorts** each year, while there will be **16 shorts in Focus Israele**, reserved for recent and historical film productions of prolific and engaging filmmaking, including feature films and TV series, a focus created in collaboration with the Israeli Embassy and the active Jewish community of Trieste.

Also worth mentioning is the three-day **Shorts Development & Pitching Training**, in which **five international short film projects** will be guided through the system of the appropriate presentations to producers and distributors of their directorial projects.

Space will also be given to a **creative "chain" of comics** with a comic strip marathon curated by Francesco Paolo Cappellotto, which will involve many aspiring comic strip authors who will be called upon to pass the baton of their comic strips and thus build a complete story, the fruit of many artistic hands; and the not-to-be-missed **Esterno/Giorno**, a tour led by journalist Elisa Grando, who this year will take us on the set of *The Godfather*, released in theatres 50 years ago.

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