



**14<sup>th</sup> Milano Film Festival  
(Milan, September 11-20 2009)**

Milan, 12/06/2009

**PRESS RELEASE**

Teatro Strehler and Sagrato, Teatro Studio, Teatro dal Verme, Parco Sempione, Acquario Civico, Istituto Penale Minorile C. Beccaria. These are the **venues** where the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Milano Film Festival will be held.

This year's **Feature Film Competition** will feature debut and second works only, and 800 films from all over the world have already been submitted. The competition is open to films of all genres, formats, and lengths produced in the last 18 months. Only ten of them will take part in the competition. The jury is made up of: Michelange Quay (France/Haiti), Anna Melikian (Russia), Simon Ellis (UK), Joachim Trier (Norway).

As always, the audience will be involved in the **Short Film Competition** (featuring about 60 films) through the possibility of voting after every screening. The members of this year's short film jury will be five ladies working in the arts, namely in the cinema department of ARTE, France's most important cultural channel (Diane Grigaut, Caroline Jung, Claire Launay, Virginie Moussier, and H  l  ne Vayssi  res, who are in charge of film archives and selection, and of short and feature short film post-production).

The festival will offer two **special events**: a daily screening slot for the special episodes of *Court Circuit*, the TV show dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nouvelle Vague, and the Italian premiere of feature film produced by ARTE (the title is yet to be defined).

This year, Milano Film Festival will present a **complete retrospective on Ermanno Olmi**. The great director will attend the festival, and all of his films will be preceded by a debate with the guests.

As a tribute to **Avi Mograbi**, the Festival will hold a retrospective of all his works (feature and short films), as well as a master class on documentary. Mr. Mograbi will join us in Milan on September 12-14, and the master class – open to a limited number of participants – will take place on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> at Teatro Studio, while on September 12<sup>th</sup> he will meet the audience.

Once again, this edition will feature many documentaries, included in its **State (T)error** section: they will depict a complex pattern of injustices and crimes committed by so-called "democratic" countries and by the system of power, and they will illustrate how concepts like "peace", "freedom", and "safety" are used to deceive citizens into supporting their governments' strategies.

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A wide range of events will be offered. Among them, the **Focus on Animation**, featuring two short film “marathons” (3-hour-long screenings at Parco Sempione), workshops, and a première; and **Invisible Japan**, the out-of-competition section organized in collaboration with MiTo that will include 12 independently-produced feature films (among which the last works by Takeshi Kitano, that have never been shown in Italy so far) by young – and often cult – filmmakers that have never been distributed in Italy.

Among the notable novelties, an important date is the one with **Italian Get-togethers**, the section dedicated to films by young Italian filmmakers. Every day, it will offer the audience screening of short and feature films, meetings with their filmmakers, and a space for Italian independent distribution houses that bravely decide to swim against the stream.

Two **calls for entries** are open. **NGO World Videos – Reportage dal sud del mondo**, organized in collaboration with COOPI, aims at making the public more aware of topics related to development aid, and promoting high-quality social documentaries. For five days, festival-goers will be able to watch videos lasting a maximum of 15 minutes that have been produced by Italian and international NGOs and humanitarian associations working in third-world countries. The second call for entries is **FAI il tuo film – bando agli ecomostri** (see enclosed release).

More important dates will be: **Immigration Day**, a day dedicated to Milan’s foreign communities, designed in collaboration with Naga; **Milano Film Festivalino**, offering workshops and screenings during the two weekends, as well as a daily morning date with primary schools, and babysitting service every night; **Soundoc**, a section of music documentaries designed in collaboration with Barcelona’s In-Edit Beefeater festival, that will present a focus on Jem Cohen, as well as about 8 films representing a journey around the world at the discovery of music from Cambodia, China, and Guinea; and finally the **Salon des refuses**, the traditional self-managed section for filmmakers whose short films have not been selected for the international competition.

For the second year, thanks to the collaboration with **Amiacque**, the Festival will provide free unbottled water.

And, last but not least, our **music** programme will offer daily live concerts and DJ sets. Three special guests will join us on three important dates, organized thanks to the artistic consultancy of Manuel Agnelli and Roy Paci (who will also perform their unreleased projects on our stage).

Milano Film Festival will take place thanks to the sponsorship of: **Amiacque** (Main Sponsor), **Coopi**, **FAI**, **MiTo** (cultural partners). The Festival is supported by **Comune di Milano** (Milan’s City Council), **European Union – Media Programme**, and by **Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali** (the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities).

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