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Locarno, 8 August 2021

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CASTELLINARIA 2021

President

Mrs. Flavia Marone

Castellinaria in a “double format”

This year Castellinaria wants to reach its audiences with a more widespread presence. We turned the pandemic into an opportunity to grow and better ourselves and, after last year’s all-online event, we are emerging stronger than ever.

It is thanks to this experience that we are able to bring this 34th Castellinaria Festival in a double format version.

In fact, Castellinaria will be held at the event venue but also live-streamed. From 13–20 November, we will be happily welcoming you back at Bellinzona’s Espocentro and if you are unable to come, we will “come to you”, in your classrooms and homes.

Last year’s online event was a success and the good numbers drove our decision to maintain the format this year.

We have had our share of difficulties in creating such a unique event from scratch. The feedback received, however, has been a great recognition for our efforts.

Knowing that we were able to stream live to private audiences and schools that under normal circumstances and for various reasons wouldn’t have been able to come to Bellinzona encouraged us to hold the event both online and on-site this year.

It goes without saying that it will be an event rich in content and new surprises that you will have a chance to discover from now to November.

One of the many surprises is that Castellinaria will be present all year long through the streaming platform.

I would also like to highlight a couple of projects that will be taking place during the event in close collaboration with the Locarno Film Festival:

Cinema&Gioventù, the well-known project that has been taking place for over 30 years now, and Locarno Kids, which this year, through the collaboration of Castellinaria and the various screenwriting workshops, will be presenting an exhibition produced with the Ticino Film Commission at Castello Visconteo, kindly granted by the City of Locarno.

This is just a preview of what will be happening in Bellinzona next November. There is plenty more to discover so come see us.

I would like to thank all of our supporters and our public and private sponsors.

With great joy, I look forward to welcoming you in great numbers.

Artistic Director

Giancarlo Zappoli

Last year the pandemic threw quite a few curveballs our way and we responded with the passion that has always driven the people behind this event. One of the achieved results that we didn't predict and found striking was the number of new participants who, thanks to the live streaming of the event, were able to overcome the distance barrier. However, we didn't just gladly acknowledge this new audience. We actually went to the schools—in Locarno, Lugano, Mendrisio and, of course, Bellinzona—to talk with the teachers and obtain useful information on how we could keep going and, if possible, improve the service. The meetings were very productive and motivated us to continue offering double access (on-site and partially online) as well as to increase the study sheet offering, extending it to the films of the Youth Competition. What's more, there are many projects being implemented for both school audiences and the general public thanks to the fact that the platform will remain in place. There are proposals for on-line workshops and other initiatives as well.

As might be expected, the programming is already under way but the film searching and selection difficulties are not over yet, especially because of Castellinaria's well-defined area – films for and about children/youth. In fact, compared to last year, many films have already been distributed on the platforms. Nonetheless, we can already confirm that attention will continue to be directed towards the increasingly endangered ecosystem (the recent floods in Germany are a tragic testament to this) in order to foster a reflection among youth on how the situation we are living has influenced the purpose and activities of the "GREEN FRIDAY" project.

WHY A HYBRID FESTIVAL?

Last year, holding the festival just online was the only possibility we had to be present and give our contribution to the Canton's cultural scene.

We know all of us can't wait to return to the theatres but even so, we must also admit that the online version was a gift to school and other audiences who, due to distance, logistics or other reasons, didn't have the possibility to come to Bellinzona.

Several schools from the Canton of Ticino, but also from German- and French-speaking parts of Switzerland, were able to remotely participate in the festival and expressed their desire to continue to do so. This is the reason why we have decided to continue to live stream part of the Castellinaria programme, for use both by schools and by the public at large.

Our desire is to keep this platform alive even throughout the year with timely programming and a few collaborations, especially with the Settimana della Svizzera Italiana, a week dedicated to the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland organised by the DECS for Swiss high schools.

All of this means that the Festival will not only be returning to Bellinzona's Espocentro and throughout theatres in the Canton of Ticino but will also be happening on the web!

CASTELLINEUROPE, COLLABORATION WITH OTHER FESTIVALS

The idea for the «Castellineurope» project came in a moment when collaborating and skill networking turned out to be more important than ever. In fact, there was a wave of solidarity among Switzerland- and Europe-based festivals during last year's lockdown due to the difficulties that had to be faced. Everyone got to work to help each other rise to the digital challenges and implement the solutions to overcome the crisis.

Taking part in various online conferences made us realise that each festival, each country and each region had its own peculiarities, its own creative ideas about cultural mediation, and its own strategies to take the films to the kids in the best possible way, despite the particular situation.

That's how we came up with the idea of creating a special moment to talk about the changes taking place, new cultural mediation strategies and the future of cultural mediation, and to turn it into a European project through the involvement of the most important players in the youth film festival scene.

The idea was well-received and five of the most important European festivals of films aimed at young audiences or connected with the world of youth immediately joined in: the BUFF International Film Festival of Malmö (Sweden), Ale Kino! (Poland), the Zlín Film Festival (Czech Republic), Cinekid Festival (Holland) and the Kosavar animation festival of Anibar.

The persons heading the cultural mediation activities for these festivals will come to Bellinzona for a public conference open to all, especially anyone who works with young people, including teachers, who will have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits, and the cultural mediation directors of the festivals across Switzerland, who are warmly invited to participate.

The Castellineurope project aims to be an important occasion for learning, discussing, networking new strategies, and creating synergies across Europe.

Here are the conference speakers:

Julia Jarl, **director of Malmö's BUFF Festival**

Rianne Vogel, **head of Cinekid's Education Department**

Markéta Pasmová, **director of the Zlín Film Festival**

Arba Atashi, **director of the Anibar Festival**

Jerzy Moszkowicz, **director of the Ale Kino! Festival**

EXHIBITIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Cinema-related exhibitions and workshops are a tradition here at Castellinaria. We have the LOCATION TICINO exhibition, organised by Castellinaria in the context of "Locarno Kids la Mobiliare" in collaboration with the Ticino Film Commission and with the City of Locarno, as part of the UNICEF project "Locarno Child Friendly City", now in progress at Locarno's Castello Visconteo, and its related workshops. Then there is the exhibition entitled **SOUNDTRACK: The Music, Voices and Noises of Film**, which will be up at the Espocentro during the week of the festival in November. This is a sequel of the digital exhibition held during the 33rd Castellinaria Festival.

A recording studio, complete with microphones, screens and anything else that is required to revoice actors, add sounds, and create music and noises in a film, will be set up.

It will be a very theatrical and playful place, leading visitors to discover this world of images and sounds.

Screens will show clips of films that have made soundtrack history. Inside an old arcade, both kids and grown-ups will have a chance to try their hand at music trivia questions presented in the form of video games, allowing them to test their skills and knowledge.

The exhibition will also include revoicing workshops entitled **Look Who's Talking** to experiment with film dialogue adaptation and dubbing techniques and get a grasp of the process that makes it possible to give one's own voice to famous film characters, actors or animals in a fun and interactive way.

The soundtrack workshop **Music and Noises** will be a brief introduction on music's role in cinema, providing familiar examples from film. After, kids will get to choose the music and sounds for a short film or extract of a feature film.

PICCOLA RASSEGNA (THE SMALL REVIEW)

The Piccola Rassegna, a section aimed at the Festival's youngest audiences, will be featuring two masterpieces of modern animation – **Zog** and **The Highway Rat** – which just like *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man* presented in 2019, are based on the famous illustrated books by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

The professional partnership between writer Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler has given children's literature one of its most entertaining moments.

All written in rhyme – ranging between nursery rhyme and epic – these stories have given life to characters that have found a set place in the collective imagination, much in the same way characters from the classic fables have.

Zog – GB 2018 – Directed by: Max Lang and Daniel Snaddon, 27'

Zog is the keenest dragon in Dragon School, but also the clumsiest. Luckily, a mysterious girl is always ready to treat his wounds. The young girl has to help Zog pass the tough test ahead of him: capturing a princess and winning the coveted gold star.

The Highway Rat – GB 2017 – Directed by: Jeroen Jaspaert, 25'

A greedy rat runs up and down the highway grabbing all the food and making life hard for the other animals. Fond of sandwiches, biscuits and all things sweet, the rat stops at nothing to satiate his hunger. A cunning duck finally gives the little bandit the punishment he deserves.

GREEN FRIDAY, an initiative that has been running at Castellinaria for the past three years, will be back, bringing films that promote awareness of environmental issues to the Small Review section as well as other sections of the Festival.

CINEMA&GIOVENTÙ TWINS WITH CINETECA MILANO

Unlike last year, the 62nd Cinema&Gioventù is taking place as an in-person event within the context of the Locarno Film Festival. Organised by Castellinaria Festival on behalf of the Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the Canton of Ticino, in collaboration with the Territorial Department, Cinema&Gioventù returns this year with two new surprises.

The first is the twinning arrangement between Cinema&Gioventù and Cineteca Milano, aimed at creating a synergy between these two organisations involved in cinematography education and the promotion of the seventh art among youth, and at expanding knowledge and training through activities and masterclasses, such as the one held yesterday on Alberto Lattuada by Matteo Pavesi, Director of Cineteca Milano.

The second, based on last year's enriching experience, is the CHF 2,000 prize award offered by the Territorial Department to the Open Doors short film that best interprets the concept «The environment is quality of life». Moreover, the 31 participants of Cinema&Gioventù will prove they know how to express their young voices by, among other things, awarding the various prizes offered by the DECS and the Territorial Department to the films featured in the "Concorso Internazionale", the "Pardi di domani" section and the "Concorso Cineasti del Presente".

THE POSTER

For the past three years, the manifesto project has been in the hands of the students of the Bachelor of Arts in Visual communication of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), with which Castellinaria has developed a productive collaboration. Each student worked out a proposal that took into account the peculiarities and requirements of the Festival. However, they also pushed boundaries in their works by

introducing Augmented Reality (AR), viewable through the Artivive app that everyone can download on their smartphones.

The project chosen for the 34th Castellinaria was developed by Emily Goulene, who says the following about the concept that led her to the final result:

'You've got to be a bit utopian otherwise you won't go anywhere'

Juliette Binoche

Through the succeeding frames, the film takes you to a parallel reality created by the director, and the screen is the medium that connects the audience to this parallel reality. Using succeeding lines, I created an immersive perspectival illusion that indicates directionality.

Through the manifesto, spectators can receive the information they need to visit the event, that way they become the portal that leads to Castellinaria; AR, which introduces time and movement, makes them feel like they are part of a film or short."



Castellinaria

34. FESTIVAL DEL CINEMA BELLINZONA 13-20.11 2021



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