

PRESS RELEASE

16th Film Festival della Lessinia *Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona – Italy), August 21-29, 2010*

Sixteen years of films dedicated to life, history, and traditions in the mountains of the entire world. This is the **Film Festival della Lessinia**, the only cinematographic event in Italy exclusively devoted to these aspects of mountain life, and excluding by regulation films about sports and Alpinism. The Film Festival della Lessinia opened its 2010 edition on **Saturday, August 21** at the **Teatro Vittoria in Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona)** and through **Sunday, August 29** the Lessinia mountains will be transformed into the capital of the mountain people with nine days of screenings and encounters with the films' authors and protagonists, and a selection of films that once again confirms the quality and increasingly international character of the Festival.

198 films from 30 different countries were viewed by the selection committee of the Film Festival this year: **26 (with 11 Italian premieres)** were chosen for the *Competition* section. They include **feature films, shorts, documentaries** and, **new to the 2010 edition, animated films** that will compete for the prestigious *Lessinia d'Oro*, the *Lessinia d'Argento* and other prizes. Germany is the most represented nation with 6 films; 4 films are from France, 3 from Italy, and 1 from, respectively, Brazil, Georgia, Greece, Morocco, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine and Hungary. An additional 29 works will be screened in sections outside competition: (*Other Mountains, Children's Mountains*) and in *Special Events*.

The curtain of the 16th Film Festival della Lessinia went up on August 21 with two special events by two of the greatest protagonists of international cinema: **Ermanno Olmi** and **Werner Herzog**. The first screening in the modern Teatro Vittoria of Bosco Chiesanuova was Olmi's new documentary, *Vineyards on the Rocks*, about the terraced vineyards of the Valtellina. The protagonist of the opening ceremony, at 6:00 p.m., was the bear, to whom the Festival dedicates a retrospective this year that began with the screening of the extraordinary documentary *Grizzly Man* by the German director Werner Herzog, widely considered the greatest documentarist of all time.

Other special appointments over the nine days of the Festival will be dedicated to Italian cinema, with a tribute to the Emilia-Romagna region, from its people (beginning with the last interview with the journalist Enzo Biagi) to the traditions of shepherds, poets, mule drivers, and breeders who reveal what life in “the Alps” means to them. Another special event will be devoted to mountain games, in particular the **morra**.

Two years after the death of **Mario Rigoni Stern**, the Film Festival della Lessinia pays tribute to the great writer from Asiago with a retrospective in which Rigoni Stern describes “his” Altipiano and with the film that Rigoni Stern wrote with Ermanno Olmi and Tullio Kezich, *The Scavengers*. In the three documentaries that the Film Festival della Lessinia has chosen for the retrospective Mario Rigoni Stern recounts his mountains as never before.

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Among the novelties of the 2010 Film Festival della Lessinia is the inauguration of a **new section dedicated to our youngest viewers**, *Children's Mountain*: a program of animated and feature films from all over the world, with screenings daily at 4:00 p.m. in the Teatro Vittoria. For the first time, some young, “green” jurors will be responsible for assigning the *Children's Prize* given to the best film amongst the 12 in competition for 2010. They will choose from an international selection of works from 8 countries (France, Germany, Japan, Greece, England, Spain, Portugal, Russia and the USA) in which the undisputed protagonists are animals: bears, cats, marmots and even spiders, flies, and even imaginary creatures.

The **Piazza del Festival** will host a rich calendar of encounters with directors, and book presentations in the *Mountain Bookshop*; guided excursions to discover the Lessinia Mountains; photography and illustration exhibitions; activities for children and gastronomic stands. After 11 p.m., in the Festival piazza, a different local restaurant will prepare such traditional delicacies as mountain gnocchi and barley soup for a delicious, post-Festival snack.

The Film Festival della Lessinia is organized by the Comunità Montana della Lessinia, the Parco Naturale Regionale della Lessinia and the Associazione Film Festival della Lessinia. The event enjoys the support of the Comune di Bosco Chiesanuova, Provincia di Verona (Provincia in Festival), Regione Veneto, Curatorium Cimbricum Veronense, Consorzio Verona Tuttintorno, Consorzio BIM Adige, Camera di Commercio di Verona. The sponsor of the Festival is the Cassa Rurale Bassa Vallagarina.

Bosco Chiesanuova can be reached by bus with the number 10 of the Atv-Azienda Trasporti di Verona. **From August 21 through August 28 a free night bus** from the **Film Festival della Lessinia** will depart from the Piazza Borgo at midnight and arrive at the Verona train station at circa 00.50.

Tickets and festival passes are on sale at the Teatro Vittoria in Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona), located in Piazza G. Martoni, from August 9 to August 20 (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and from August 21 onward (from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.). Tickets may also be purchased online at www.greenticket.it and from Greenticket sales points. Info: +390457050789 and info@filmfestivallessinia.it. Program, synopsis, photos, film trailers and news can be consulted in English and Italian on the Film Festival della Lessinia site: www.filmfestivallessinia.it