

## PRESS RELEASE

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

### THE WINNERS OF THE 16TH FILM FESTIVAL DELLA LESSINIA

The 16th edition of the **Film Festival della Lessinia** in Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona), the only cinematographic event in Italy dedicated exclusively to mountain life, history and traditions, and excluding films about sports and Alpinism, has concluded.

During the **awards ceremony**, which took place on **Saturday, August 28** in the Teatro Vittoria with special guest emcee Gigliola Cinquetti, the International Jury assigned the **Gran Premio Lessinia della Comunità Montana della Lessinia – Lessinia Gold** to *Felicità* by the Georgian director, **Salomé Aleksi**. The film tells the story of Tamara who has immigrated to Italy to work as a caregiver and is unable to return to Georgia when her husband dies in a car accident. However, the woman finds a way to participate in the funeral of her loved one. “In this film a dramatic social question is treated with sensitivity, irony, and original narrative invention. It tells of a phenomenon of the utmost topicality: the demographic haemorrhage, above all of women (many work as caregivers to elderly people in Italy and Greece) is a wound that is crippling the rural and mountain areas of Georgia. The jury particularly admired the technical level of the film, the direction, and the performances of the actors. This film succeeds in involving the spectator on an emotional level as well as inspiring reflection on such fundamental questions as love, life, and death”. **Tamara Vovcenco**, a caregiver in Italy who lived through a similar story accepted the award on behalf of the director.

The **Premio del Comune di Bosco Chiesanuova - Lessinia Silver** went to *Himalaya, le chemin du ciel* by the French director, Marianne Chaud. “A delicate and empathic look at the expectations, dreams, and life of the Buddhist children who embrace religious life in the monastic communities in the mountains of Zanskar. The success of this documentary is due to the extreme sensitivity of the director, who for reasons of her studies and personal choice spends the better part of the year in the Indian Himalayas, and above all to the extraordinary personality of the young protagonist who renders the film truly unique”.

The other awards from the Film Festival 2010 went to an additional 11 films from amongst the 26 admitted to festival competition. The **Premio del Curatorium Cimbricum Veronese** for minority cultures and languages went to Sandro Gastinelli and Marzia Pellegrino for *A la vita!*. For the best work regarding cultural identity in the mountains, the **Premio della Regione Veneto** was awarded to the directors Vano Arsenishvili and Nino Orjonikidze, authors of the film, *Altzaney*. The director Philipp J. Pamer, with *Bergblut*, won the **Premio della Provincia di Verona**, which recognizes the best film about “mountain history”. The **Premio Lessinia** for the best work about the Lessinia mountains went to *Se Milagres desejaís* by André Constantin and Nivaldo Pereira. The best naturalistic documentary award, the **Premio del Parco Naturale della Lessinia** was awarded to

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*Wilde Pyrenäen – Berge des Lichts* by Jürgen Eichinger. The short, animated film, *Urs*, by Moritz Mayerhofer won the **Jury Prize**. A **Special Mention** went to the reportage, *La yerbabuena – Comunidad in Resistencia*, by Nicolas Défossé. The film, *La natura che cura*, by Michael Wachtler was awarded the **Premio Speciale della Cassa Rurale Bassa Vallagarina**. The young director who won the **Special Prize in Memory of Mario Pigozzi and Piero Piazzola**, the founders of the Film Festival della Lessinia, went to Anush Hamzehian, for *La main et la voix*. The **Award from the Public** of the 16th Film Festival della Lessinia was awarded to *Bergblut* by Philipp J. Pamer. Finally, the **Award from the Children** went to the popular Russian cartoon series, *Masha i medved*.

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