

PRESS RELEASE

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

**TRIBUTE TO MARIO RIGONI STERN
AT THE 16TH FILM FESTIVAL DELLA LESSINIA**

On **Tuesday, August 24 (at 6:00 p.m.)**, 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 of documentaries in which Rigoni Stern recounts “his” Altipiano, and with the moving film that he co-wrote with Ermanno Olmi and Tullio Kezich, *The Scavengers*. Shot in the Altipiano, the film, one of Olmi's first, narrates the story of Gianni, a veteran of the Russian campaign who returned to his mountains in 1945. Unable to find work, Gianni meets an old man, Du, and with him begins scavenging for relics from the Great War. The film is an intimate portrait of life on the high plain, or Altipiano, just after the War, and a witness to how that mountain area was then transformed by construction.

The three documentaries chosen by the Festival della Lessinia are truly extraordinary, and include Rigoni Stern's first-person narration of his life and his mountains: *The “Grande Rogazione” with Mario Rigoni Stern* by Renato Morelli, produced by the regional office of RAI in Trento. The traditional and spectacular procession on the eve of the Ascension, repeated annually by thousands Asiago residents, is called the “trip around the world”. For Rigoni Stern, as for his fellow townsmen, it was an appointment not to be missed. The writer recounts the preparations for the procession in which the eggs decorated in each house are given at dawn by the young men to the young girls after six o'clock mass in Lazzaretto. This is followed by the long walk through the meadows, woods, districts, and towns singing antique chants in Cimbri, and concludes with the moving arrival at the Duomo of Asiago at 6:00 p.m., after thirteen hours of walking. **Following the screening the director, Mario Morelli, will answer questions from the audience.** The other documentaries will be screened on Saturday, August 28, at 9:00 p.m. during the final evening of the Festival.

The **Competition** screenings continue at **9:00 p.m.** with the film *Altzaney* by Nino Orjonikidze and Vano Arsenishvili (Georgia 2009) set in the small Georgian village of Pankisi Gorge, where the elderly Altzaney is considered a true authority, and mediator in the affairs of life and death. Following is *Himalaya, le chemin du ciel – Himalaya, a Path to the Sky* by Marianne Chaud (France 2009). In the Phuktal monastery at four thousand metres, in the Zaskar region of the Himalayas, Buddhist monks live apart from the rest of the world. Among them is little Kenrap, eight years old. Concluding the evening is the Georgian film, *Felicità - Happiness*, by Salomé Aleksi (2009). The protagonist, Tamara, lives and works illegally in Italy. When her husband dies suddenly in a car accident, she cannot return to Georgia and decides to participate in the funeral by telephone.

The screenings for children proceed today at **4:00 p.m.** with *Koda, Brother Bear* by Aaron Blaise and Robert Walker (USA 2003). Also for children, at **5:30 p.m.** in the *Piazza del Festival*, a *Snack*

Film Festival della Lessinia
C/o Comunità Montana della Lessinia

www.filmfestivallessinia.it
info@filmfestivallessinia.it

Piazza Borgo, 52
37021 Bosco Chiesanuova (VR) – Italia
Tel. + 39 045 6782091 / 6799215
Fax. + 39 045 6780677

Marta Bicego (*Addetto stampa*)
m.bicego@filmfestivallessinia.it
+39 340 1495248

with the Bear: a workshop to prepare jars of honey and nuts organized by the Museo Civico Etnografico of Bosco Chiesanuova (cost 3 euro). The popular *Dopofestival*, **from 11 p.m.** onward, will feature freshly cooked pizza from the Pizzeria La Caneva.

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