

## PRESS RELEASE

### 14th Lessinia Film Festival (Bosco Chiesanuova – Verona)

#### A film for peace wins top prize at the 14th Lessinia Film Festival

Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona), August 31, 2008 – The 14th edition of the Lessinia Film Festival, the international film competition dedicated to mountain life, history, and traditions, closed last night in Bosco Chiesanuova.

During the awards ceremony on Saturday, August 30, held in the Teatro Vittoria of Bosco Chiesanuova, the international jury awarded the “**Gran Prix Lessinia**” – **Lessinia d’Oro** to the film *Grozny Dreaming* (Switzerland) by the directors Fulvio Mariani and Mario Casella, which had its world premiere at the Festival. The film tells the story of the **Caucasian Chamber Orchestra**, an orchestral ensemble that unites musicians from various republics of the Caucasus region, martyred by wars. “A touching cry of hope,” wrote the jury. “The music of this orchestra becomes the ambassador for peace and represents the universal aspiration for reciprocal understanding and coexistence among various peoples. This is a work that transmits a clear message to all, in the hope that a dream does not remain just a dream.”

The directors, **Fulvio Mariani** and **Mario Casella**, when accepting the award, recalled the moving opening evening of the Film Festival when the orchestra played a concert—perhaps their last—in Bosco Chiesanuova: “The greatest satisfaction for these musicians was to play in this theater, to an audience that welcomed them with enthusiasm and affection. This prize will make them even happier and will be the first step to finding a way for the orchestra to continue playing.”

**Alessandro Anderloni**, artistic director of the Film Festival, commented: “Let the victory of the Lessinia d’Oro at the Lessinia Film Festival be an impetus to create an initiative that permits the orchestra to keep playing. The Lessinia Film Festival will give its full contribution to an effort to create an international partnership to this end. The message of peace that these musicians delivered with their memorable performance must be saved.”

The second prize of the Lessinia Film Festival, the **Lessinia d’Argento**, was awarded to the Romanian film *Obcina*, by Björn Reinhardt: “A fascinating voyage through the tough realities of the Maramures mountains in Romania,” wrote the jury. Accepting his award, the Björn Reinhardt remembered the people of Obcina: “This prize is dedicated to them.”

The other awards from the rich prize-list of the Film Festival went to an additional 11 works from the 26 admitted in competition. The Curatorium Cimbricum Veronense prize, for films regarding minority languages and cultures, was awarded ex aequo to the film *Eco das Montanhas. A viagem da palavra* (Mountain Echo. Words’ Journey) by André Costantin (Brazil) and to *Storie in 4 lingue* (Stories in Four Languages) by Erica Barbiani, Elena Vera Tomasin and Sergio Beltrame. To the French film *Devenire une femme au Zanskar* (Becoming a Woman in Zanskar) by Jean-Michel

Corillion went the prize from the Veneto Region for the best film about the “cultural landscape” of the mountains, while the Province of Verona prize, dedicated to history in the mountains, was awarded ex aequo to the films *Their Helicopter* by Salome Jashi (Georgia) and *Höfats – Der einmalige Berg* (Höfats – The Unique Mountain) by Gerhard Baur (Germany).

The Comunità Montana della Lessinia prize, dedicated to films with the theme of the Veronese Lessinia mountains, was awarded to *Orçe* (Ogre) by Diego Carli (Italy). Other prizes went to *Territorio de abejas. Paisaje de ombre* (Bees’ Territory: Humans’ Landscape) by Daniel Orte Menchero (Spain), for the best film dedicated to environmental protection, and to *Sur les traces du renard* (On the Trail of the Fox) by Jérôme Bouvier (France), for the best nature documentary. The film *Manuel und die Wolkschafe* (Manual and the Cloud-Sheep) by Sylvia Rothe (Germany) won the Jury Prize, while two honorable mentions went to *OSSignùr! La montagna assistita* (Oh My God! Mountain Assistance) by Sandro Gastinelli and Marzia Pellegrino (Italy) and to *Einst süsse Heimat* (Beyond the Forest) by Gerald Igor Hauzenberger (Austria).

In addition to the official competition prizes were several special awards. The prize in memory of Mario Pigozzi, for the best film by a young director, was given to *Schafskälte* (Summer Frost) by August Pflugfelder (Germany), that of the Cassa Rurale Bassa Vallagarina, for the best work regarding the Tri-Veneto mountains was awarded to the film *Storie in 4 lingue* (Stories in Four Languages) by Erica Barbiani, Elena Vera Tomasin and Sergio Beltrame (Italy), while the young jury prize went to *Žed kamenog mora* (The Thirst of a Stone Sea) by Vladimir Perović (Montenegro).