

PRESS RELEASE

XVII FILM FESTIVAL DELLA LESSINIA
Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona – Italy), August 20 to 28, 2011

A window opens on the high plains in every corner of the world. For seventeen years, the **Film Festival della Lessinia** has been the only film festival in Italy devoted exclusively to mountain life, history, and traditions, with regulations that exclude films about sport and Alpinism. The curtain will rise on the 2011 edition on **Saturday, August 20** at the **Teatro Vittoria in Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona)** and **through Sunday, August 28**, the Lessinia Mountains will transform into the capital of mountain people with a selection of films which confirm the quality and increasingly international character of the Veronese event.

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 initiative has the support of the Municipality of Bosco Chiesanuova, the Province of Verona – Council for Culture, Veneto Identity and Local Events for Leisure Time, Veneto Region, Curatorium Cimbricum Veronese, Verona Tuttintorno Consortium, and the Verona Chamber of Commerce. Main sponsor, Cassa Rurale Bassa Vallagarina. Additional sponsors are the Fieragricola of Verona and the Bertani Winery, Grezzana (Verona).

The 57 films selected this year (including many Italian premieres) come from 26 different countries. They include **features, shorts, documentaries and animated films** that will compete for the *Lessinia d'Oro*, the *Lessinia d'Argento* and many other prizes. The Film Festival della Lessinia embraces the mountains of the entire world: **Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Georgia, Canada, Brazil, Turkey and China** are among the many countries represented. In addition to the Competition, the event will present other interesting perspectives in the sections **Other Mountains, Special Events, and Children's Mountains**. The latter, dedicated to children and adolescents, is a program of animated films (nearly all Italian premieres) and shorts that will constitute the 4:00 pm screenings. In addition to the films there will be excursions, workshops and games – in collaboration with Tocati and the “Games Park” in Villa of the Sigmantine Fathers – which will transform the Children's Festival into a festival within the Festival. If last year the theme was the bear, this year the children's section features the forest, on the occasion of the **International Year of Forests**, declared by the United Nations, of which the Film Festival della Lessinia is an official partner.

“A voyage through time: from prehistoric men who painted their caves to the emigrants of today, lost in the thicket of the 'brick mountains'. A voyage to various sites, from the Mongolian steppe to Balkan villages, from the Norwegian fjords to the peaks of the Himalayas and the remote Caucasian valleys. A voyage inside stories: from the shepherds of Azerbaijan to the Polish coal workers, and from the battle of the Alpine cows to the lute builders in the Chinese mountains” explains the artistic director, **Alessandro Anderloni**. “Those who come to the Festival can construct their own, personal itinerary to discover the mountains. The true mountains, populated by mountain folk, and not superheroes”. The Festival, he continues, will be an increasingly welcoming place, “to experience before and after the screenings in the living room that is the Festival Piazza. For children, we have a rich program, a festival within the Festival. We will have films and directors from all over the

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 (*Press officer*)
m.bicego@filmfestivallessinia.it
+39 340 1495248

world, confirmation that the Film Festival della Lessinia is among the major international cultural events in the Province of Verona”.

The 2011 edition of the Veronese event will be preceded by a **special evening**, on **August 19** with the screening of the silent film, *Safety Last* with Harold Lloyd, accompanied by live music by the Michael Lösch jazz quartet. This pearl of Hollywood cinema is inserted in a special section, entitled **Brick Mountains**, which will include a screening on August 27 of Luis Trenker's masterpiece, *The Prodigal Son*, with the famous fade between the peaks of the Dolomites and the skyscrapers of New York. But it will be the opening film, on **August 20**, to attract the most attention: in fact, the Festival opens in **3D** with *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. Presented in competition at the 61st edition of the Berlinale, **Werner Herzog's** new documentary will be shown in Bosco Chiesanuova, in its **second Italian screening**. Filmed in the Chauvet Cave in southern France, it is the first film made in this artistic treasure trove which contains the oldest known paintings realized by man, in an environment dating to 30,000 years ago. Herzog had the privilege of entering the cave, closed to all visitors, with his cameras and there he used 3D technology for the first time in his career.

For the following nine days screenings in the Teatro Vittoria will alternate with meetings with authors (on August 25 the special guest will be the Alpinist-explorer **Fausto De Stefani**), **excursions** to discover the Veronese mountains, and **concerts** (on August 20 the Brazilian band, Pula Limão, and on August 25 the Irish music of Birkin Tree). After the 2010 retrospective dedicated to the bear, this year the Festival pays homage to the forest, on the occasion of the International Year of Forests, with a section of works by such great masters of world cinema as Ermanno Olmi, with *Il segreto del bosco vecchio*, and Werner Herzog whose *Fitzcarraldo* was filmed in the Amazon forest. In addition there will be a special tribute to Italian cinema with the focus on the Friuli Venezia Giulia region.

In the **Piazza del Festival** the **Mountain Bookshop** will host editorial presentations and a play area for the youngest visitors. A space constructed entirely with stone from the Lessinia by the Bellamoli firm will host the **Osteria del Festival**, where guests can taste products typical of the area, in collaboration with the Monte Veronese DOP Consortium, the Bertani Winery and Corrado Benedetti – Salamis and Cheeses. From August 27, an important wine and gastronomic exposition will be featured in collaboration with the Verona Chamber of Commerce, with the participation of local producers of wines, salamis and cheeses.

Bosco Chiesanuova can be reached by bus with the number 10 line of the Atv-Azienda Trasporti in Verona. **From August 20 to 27**, there will be a **special Film Festival della Lessinia night bus** departing from Piazza Borgo at midnight and arriving at the Verona train station at about 12:50 am.

Tickets and festival subscriptions can be purchased at the Teatro Vittoria in Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona), in Piazza G. Marconi, from 9 am to 1 pm and 3pm to 9 pm. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.greenticket.it and in the Greenticket sales points. Info: 0457050789 and info@filmfestivallessinia.it. Programme, synopses, photos, trailers and news can be consulted on the site www.filmfestivallessinia.it

Film Festival della Lessinia
C/o Comunità Montana della Lessinia

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

www.filmfestivallessinia.it
info@filmfestivallessinia.it

Marta Bicego (*Press officer*)
m.bicego@filmfestivallessinia.it
+39 340 1495248