PRESS RELEASE

XVII Film Festival della Lessinia
Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona – Italy), August 20-28, 2011

THE WINNERS OF THE XVII FILM FESTIVAL DELLA LESSINIA

The 17th edition of the **Film Festival della Lessinia,** the only film festival in Italy devoted exclusively to aspects of mountain life, history, and traditions, and excluding works about sports and Alpinism, closed in Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona).

During the **awards ceremony**, which took place on **Saturday, August 27** at the **Teatro Vittoria** the international jury awarded the **Gran Premio Lessinia della Comunità Montana della Lessinia – Lessinia d'Oro** to the film, *Voyage au bout de l'hiver (Journey at the End of the Winter)* by Anne and Erik Lapied. The two directors tell of their adventure in the heart of the Parco Nazionale del Gran Paradiso, where they spent a good part of a year shooting a documentary about the king of those mountains, his majesty the ibex. "A work of exceptional photographic quality", says the jury report, "realized in an extremely rigid environment. The authors succeeded in producing a narrative of great visual impact and intense emotional power. This is a work made with great passion, patience, and fatigue, as well as love and tenderness towards the animals".

The **Premio del Comune di Bosco Chiesanuova - Lessinia d'Argento** went to *Off the Beaten Track* by Dieter Auner. This documentary recounts one year in the life of the young Albin Creta, a shepherd from northern Transylvania: his life and his work in the meadows, wool cutting, milking, cheese production, and the long nights in the Transylvanian mountain. "Against the background of a period of great transformation in Eastern Europe," wrote the jury, " the author succeeds with delicacy and discretion, and with direct, honest cinematography, in telling of the vicissitudes of a family of Romanian farmers and with this story makes us reflect on the universal phenomenon of emigration. The new Europe forces this family to make difficult choices. The young son is brave and has faith in the future. Though his eyes we also experience this period of choices and change".

The **Premio del Curatorium Cimbricum Veronense** for films about minority languages and cultures went to *The Broken Moon* by Marcos Negrão and André Rangel. "The two Brazilian directors tell of a Tibetan family from a new, different point of view. Through the fascinating images and dialogue in the Changthang language, they bring to the screen a generational conflict caused, above all, by devastating drought". For the best work about cultural identity in the mountains, the **Premio della Regione Veneto** went to the Polish director Piotr Złotorowicz, author of the film *Smolarze (Coal Burners).* "A short film that recounts a difficult life, an authentic human relationship, a subtle irony made of glances and few words: the power of simplicity". Titus Faschina, director of *Dem himmel ganz nah (Close to Heaven)*, took the **Premio della Provincia di Verona** which recognizes the best work about history in the mountains. "Mountain life told with poetry, artistry, and impeccable technique, using the brave choice of black and white which helps us get closer to the story of this family. With their heads high, a couple of farmers from the Carpathian Mountains carry on the ancient way of life, but for their young son changes will soon be inevitable".

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The **Premio del Parco Naturale della Lessinia** for the best naturalistic documentary went to *Vertige d'une rencontre (Flirting with Heights)* by Jean-Michel Bertrand. The best short animated film is *Eagle, Beaver, Duck, Moon, Huhu* by Alexei Alexeev. The young director who won the **Premio Speciale alla memoria di Mario Pigozzi e Piero Piazzola is** Grzegorz Zariczny with *Marysina Polana (The Dog Hill).* *L'età della pietra (The Stone Age)* by Federico Betta and Alessandro Genovese won the **Premio Speciale della Cassa Rurale Bassa Vallagarina** as best film about the mountains of the Tri-Veneto. The **Premio Speciale di Fieragricola** went to *Die sennerin und ihr sohn (The Dairymaid and her Son)* by Matti Bauer. The **Premio del pubblico** of the XVII Film Festival della Lessinia went to *Vertige d'une rencontre (Flirting with Heights)* by Jean-Michel Bertrand. The **Premio dei bambini** went to *Mobile* by Verena Fels. The jury of the Verona prison assigned its award to *Vertige d'une rencontre (Flirting with Heights)* by Jean-Michel Bertrand.

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