



PRESS RELEASE

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CHILEAN OSCAR-NOMINATED FILM OPENING THE MIFF AWARDS

The Leonardo da Vinci's Horse is back at Palazzo Lombardia with a grand red carpet premiere. On May 8, *NO* by Pablo Larraín will open the 13th edition of the International Film Festival of Milan.

Milan, May 2013 – 1988, Santiago de Chile. Augusto Pinochet is still on power, but his future hangs on the outcome of a TV campaign for a national referendum. This is the setting of the film *NO*, shortlisted in advance for Best Director at 2012 Cannes Film Festival, and for a nomination for Oscars 2013, and now selected to open Milan International Film Festival. The screening will be on May 8 at the Palazzo della Regione Auditorium Giovanni Testori, following the red carpet event in piazza Città di Lombardia, Italy's biggest indoor square.

No surprise the Italian preview of the film will be held in Milan, core network of Italy's most important creative agencies. As a matter of fact the location discloses the subject of the film: the protagonist Rene Saavedra, performed by Gael García Bernal (*Amores Perros*, *The motorcycle diaries*, *Y tu mamá también*, *La mala educación*), is a publicist in charge of managing the anti-Pinochet campaign. His advertisement is successful against all odds, and democracy can triumph.

“This film is a piece of my Chilean past reconstruction, which I began in 2008 with *Tony Manero* and then continued in 2010 with *Post mortem*”, says the director Pablo Larraín. He chose to shoot with a vintage camera in order to combine his own script with archive images. He welcomed with surprise the commercial and critical success that his film achieved.

Italy's political situation is quite confused at the moment, thereby a film like *No* can certainly be food for thought. Renzo Sicco, drama writer and director, expert of Chilean issues, will be hosted at the premiere, together with various creative directors, who will debate about political advertisements.

The film also stars Alfredo Castro, protagonist of *Tony Manero* and *Post Mortem*, as a right-wing politician greedy for power as well as without talent and creativity.

“Since its beginning, MIFF has aimed towards not only high quality, but also interest for themes that are crucial for the countries represented by the participating films”, said the Festival's founder Andrea Galante. “And this year's program shows this evolution, including the projection of *No*”.

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