

PRESS RELEASE

April 2, 2009 – NEWS

MILAN IN POLE POSITION FOR INDIE FILMS. AMONG NOMINEES FOR LEONARDO'S HORSE RENÉE ZELLWEGER AND MELISSA LEO, SUNDANCE PREMIERE *LYMELIFE* EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY SCORSESE, AND *PLAYGROUND* PRODUCED BY CLOONEY AMONG DOC NOMINEES

MILAN – 2009 marks a new date in the cinematographic events calendar, after MIFED now just a memory after 72 editions, the new MIFF Awards by Made in Milan Association introduced at AFM 2008, is a hybrid cinema event – merging of Awards format, such as the Oscars, and the traditional Film Festival format. "Leonardo's Horses, the Milanese statuette, will not be awarded to film already released – as Oscar or other Awards concept – Nominees criteria are now adjusted for films' new releases" (Andrea Galante).

For the first time since the Academy Awards format was born in 1929 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, and the first Film Festival was held in Venice, Italy in 1932, a new format has been unveiled. Milan International Film Festival (MIFF) revamps itself as *MIFF Awards* a new international cinema exhibition with Awards for films not yet theatrically released (in Italy) set for May 11-19, 2009 in the Capital of the Fashion Industry.

"We want our selection of films to be seen, sold and distributed. With this in mind, I began thinking in reverse -- from the goal of releasing a film to understand the necessary steps," Galante said, adding "...filtering from the Independent Ocean of production around the world our Programming Committee and Jury have the responsibility and goal to educate our audience. We'll place the Award Ceremony at the beginning of the festival, give audiences good films 'worthy of viewing' in the beginning, and then let them decide in addition to our Jury who'll become the winner – eventually, country by country."

Anna Kalbhenn, Director of International Relations for MIFF, agrees, and adds, "At Cannes, the Grand Jury Prize is announced, so in Milan we'll find the Grand Audience Winners Award, which will be revealed on the final day."

Following the Award Ceremony on May 12, when the winners will be announced and awarded, the winning films will be exhibited May 13-18. Shorts Category will remain as a classic festival format and shown on May 11.

Among the Jury, prestigious personalities such as Morando Morandini, most celebrated Italian film critic, mythological Critic and AFI teacher James Hosney, Golden Globe Awardee Sandra Oh and Oscar Awardee Martin Landau, Bob Boyle (*Oscar ad Honorem*, 2008), Robert Forster, and the legendary Italian documentarist Folco Quilici.

Among the Nominees, Renée Zellweger and Melissa Leo competing for Best Actress and among MIFF Awards 2009 nominee films: *Lymelife* executive produced by Martin Scorsese and which premiered at Sundance. In the Doc Category, *Playground* produced by Clooney and Soderbergh and environmental documentary *Crude* supported by Sting and his wife Trudie Styler, and *Allegro Moderato* a unique Doc film on Orchestra Esagramma formed by young handicap people.

Opening film and program, schedule and tickets, will be announced soon. All the visible details of the festival, the candidatures and the Jury on line at MIFF Awards site: www.miff.it

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In the following pages Leonardo's Horse Nominees.

MIFF AWARDS NOMINEES

• BEST DIRECTING

Lymelife

Derick Martini

Who Are You to Me

Dror Reshef

The 27 Club

Erica Dunton

Sur Le Mont Josaphat

Jean-Marc Vervoort

Gardens of the Night

Damian Harris

• BEST SCREENWRITING

Lymelife

Derick Martini, Steven Martini

Bitter and Twisted

Christopher Weekes

The 27 Club

Erica Dunton

Who Are You to Me

Dror Reshef

Peter and Vandy

Jay DiPietro

• BEST ACTING PERFORMANCE MALE

Badland

Jamie Draven

Lymelife

Rory Culkin

The 27 Club

Joe Anderson

Cars of the Revolution

Taner Birsal

My One and Only

Logan Lerman

• BEST FILM

All the film nominated in at least one category run for Best Film. This Award is designated only by the Jury.

• BEST ACTING PERFORMANCE FEMALE

Stephanie's Image

Melissa Leo

My One and Only

Renée Zellweger

Bitter and Twisted

Noni Hazlehurst

Who Are You to Me

Hila Mezker

Badland

Grace Fulton

• BEST PHOTOGRAPHY

My One and Only

Marco Pontecorvo

Gardens of the Night

Paula Huidobro

Badland

Carlo Varini

The 27 Club

Stephen Thompson

Without

Ilias Kostandakopoulos

• BEST EDITING

Peter and Vandy

Geoffrey Richman

Zoe

Luca Carbone

Stephanie's Image

Janis DeLucia Allen

The Truth About Angels

Craig Hayes

The 27 Club

Les Butler, Olivier Bugge Coutté

• **BEST DOCUMENTARY** (and Directors)

1. Crude

Joe Berlinger

2. Playground

Libby Spears

3. Allegro Moderato

Patrizia Santangeli

4. Quest for Honor

Mary Ann Smothers Bruni

5. Courting Condi

Sebastian Duggart

6. Secrets to Love

Tracie Donahue

7. Planet B-Boy

Benson Lee

8. Return to Tarawa

Steven Barber

• **BEST SHORT FILM**

1. prog1 Viko

2. prog1 Lost Paradise

3. prog1 A Day's Work

4. prog1 Fanatic

5. prog1 Six and a Half

6. prog1 Open Your Eyes

7. prog1 Mother, Mine

8. prog2 Animated American

9. prog1 Eve

10. prog1 Boutonniere

11. prog2 Inside

12. prog2 C'ero Una Volta

13. prog2 Ciao Tesoro

14. prog2 Camille

15. prog2 Compact Only

16. prog2 Finding Grandma

17. prog2 Welgunzer

18. prog2 En Compagnie de la Poussiere

19. prog2 Down the Rabbit Hole