MILAN IN POLE POSITION FOR INDIE FILMS. AMONG NOMINEES FOR LEONARDO’S HORSE RENÉE ZELLWEGER AND MELISSA LEO, SUNDANCE PREMIERE LYMELIFE EXECUTED 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 Birsel
  - *My One and Only*
    - Logan Lerman

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