

BERGAMO FILM MEETING

International Film Festival

38th edition, March 7 - 15, 2020

- Jerzy Skolimowski. BFM38 retrospective
- The opening event. Asian Dub Foundation plays *THX 1138* by George Lucas
- The awards of Bergamo Film Meeting
- Animation cinema. Jean-François Laguionie
 - The exhibition: *Gwen, or The Book of Sand*
- Bergamo Film Meeting opens Bergamo Jazz
- Special events
- Kino Club. The Festival's educational offer for schools
- Meeting Point 2020
- Call for volunteers
- A sustainable Festival
- Collaborations
- Acknowledgements

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This press kit was prepared for the press conference to present the preview of the 38th Bergamo Film Meeting Bergamo, Wednesday December 4, 2019, 11.30 am | Cinema San Marco - Piazza della Repubblica, 2.

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38th edition, March 7 - 15, 2020

Jerzy Skolimowski is the protagonist of the Bergamo Film Meeting 38th edition retrospective. Polish director, screenwriter and actor, Skolimowski is one of the most important and original figures in world author cinema, a nonconformist and disenchanted observer of the bourgeois and consumerist society.

The animation cinema retrospective, on the other hand, features as its protagonist **Jean-François Laguionie**, one of the world's leading artists, who will be presenting the Italian premiere of his latest film *Le Voyage du Prince* (1985) and the exhibition dedicated to his first feature film *Gwen, le livre de sable* (2019) in Bergamo.

As usual, the Festival will feature the sections **Competition - Exhibition** and **Close Up**, respectively highlighting the latest trends and emerging authors in fiction and documentary cinema.

Once again supported by the European Union through the MEDIA sub-programme of Creative Europe, Bergamo Film Meeting will keep its focus on continental cinema, featuring more than **150 films** throughout **9 days** of **screenings**.

A varied schedule of activities will also take place during those 9 days, ranging meetings with authors, special events, educational activities for schools and children, accompanied by a lively parallel offer of visual arts exhibitions, live music and comics, thanks to a consolidated network of collaborations with several other cultural institutions, both local and not.

Bergamo Film Meeting will officially **open** its 38th edition on Friday, **March 6, 9.00 pm** at the **Teatro Sociale** in **Bergamo**, with the film *THX 1138* by **George Lucas** live-scored by the **Asian Dub Foundation**, in a European premiere.

The 38th edition program will be announced at the end of February.

JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI. THE BFM38 RETROSPECTIVE

This year's retrospective is dedicated to Jerzy Skolimowski, Polish director, screenwriter and film actor, one of the most important representatives of Eastern European cinema and author of a free and innovative film style.

Skolimowski was born in Łódź, Poland, in 1938. After the death of his father, a member of the resistance killed in 1943, he spent his childhood and part of adolescence between Warsaw and Prague: his schoolmates included future filmmakers Miloš Forman and Ivan Passer, as well as writer and statesman Václav Havel. After completing his university studies, he divided himself between boxing and literature, supporting numerous amateur fights and simultaneously publishing two poetry collections and a theatrical piece. In 1960 he met Andrzej Wajda, who involved him in the creation of

Niewinni czarodzieje (Innocent sorcerers): Skolimowski co-wrote the script and played the character of the young boxer. In the same year, he enrolled at the Łódź film school and, together with Roman Polański, he wrote the screenplay for *Nóż w Wodzie (Knife in the Water)*. His first short films are characterized by the irreverent aspect of his political satire, a sophisticated use of music, mastery of editing and the strong expressionistic tones of photography, along with a particular attention to youth problems of the early 1960s in Poland. *Rysopis (Identification Marks: None, 1964)* will be followed by *Walkower (Walkover, 1965)*, *Bariera (Barrier, 1966)*, *Le départ (The Departure, 1967)* and *Rece do góry (Hands Up!, 1967)*: all films portraying the Polish society with its transformations, social tensions, socialist ideals, disappointed expectations. *Hands up!* caused quite an outrage among the powers that be and would be published only fourteen years later. Skolimowski then chooses exile. *The Departure*, shot in Belgium, won the Golden Bear in Berlin. *Deep End* and *König, Dame, Bube (King, Queen, Knave)*, both from 1972 and both made in Germany, precede *The Shout (1978)* and *Moonlighting (1982)*, the film which, rich in autobiographical elements, established Skolimowski status as an emigrant, reflecting it in the figure of the protagonist. 1985 was the year of *The Lightship*, a story of violence and redemption focused on the relationship between a father and his son, starring Klaus Maria Brandauer and Robert Duvall; the film won the special jury award at the Venice Film Festival. In 1989 Skolimowski competed at Cannes with *Torrents of Spring*, adapted from the eponymous novel by I.S. Turgeven, a story of overwhelming love between Nastassja Kinski and Timothy Hutton. A long hiatus would follow. After 17 years of inactivity and 27 years of exile, the director returns to Poland to direct *Cztery nut z Anna (Four Nights with Anna, 2008)*; later, with *Essential Killing (2010)*, he returned to Venice and won the Silver Lion - Grand Jury Prize and the Volpi Cup for best actor thanks to Vincent Gallo's performance. His latest work, *11 minut (11 Minutes, 2015)*, is a choral film of rare intensity and a true cinematic fresco.

*In collaboration with the Polish Institute of Rome.
Jerzy Skolimowski will be present in Bergamo.*

BFM38 OPENING EVENT. ASIAN DUB FOUNDATION plays THX 113838 by George Lucas Bergamo, Teatro Sociale - Via Bartolomeo Colleoni, 4 | Friday, March 6, 9.00 pm

To inaugurate the 38th edition of Bergamo Film Meeting, Asian Dub Foundation presents, live and **for the first time in Europe**, a new soundtrack for *THX 1138*, the sci-fi cult movie by George Lucas and his feature film directorial debut: a dystopian tale, set in a gloomy post-apocalyptic future, "far far away" from the *Star Wars* universe. The band live-scores the film with a brutal, fascinating, intense and fiery performance, transporting us to an aseptic world where mood-stabilizing drugs are mandatory and in which relationships are forbidden, but where two citizens dare to rebel against the system. For over 25 years, the **Asian Dub Foundation** have created their own trademark sound combining eclectic musical styles, ranging from electronic to reggae to traditional Indian rhythms. British but multicultural in origin, they are one of the most active and exciting bands on the international scene, as well as one of the most political.

THX 1138 (USA, 1971, 86')

Presented at the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs at the Cannes Film Festival in 1971, George Lucas' *THX 1138* marked the beginning of a glorious career for the American director. *THX 1138* and *LUH 3417* fall in love. But the powers that be won't allow it. Sociological, stylistic, abstract and produced by Francis Ford Coppola, *THX 1138* has acquired cult status over the years; the disturbing and minimalist

soundtrack by Lalo Schiffrin is now reshuffled live in a fusion of ambient, punk, electronica, reggae, bhangra and hip-hop, making the issues represented even more suffocating: surveillance, oppression, data analysis, denial of human relationships. A grim view, but more relevant than ever.

The opening event tickets will be available soon on bergamofilmmeeting.it/en

The event was made possible also by the 2017 5x1000 fundings donated to the Bergamo Film Meeting Onlus Association.

THE BERGAMO FILM MEETING AWARDS

COMPETITION-EXHIBITION

As always dedicated to new authors, the international competition will premiere 7 feature films, never before screened in Italy, characterized by their stylistic and narrative originality in dealing with contemporary themes. The selected feature films will compete for the **Bergamo Film Meeting – UBI Banca Award**, granted to the three best films in the section based on the preferences expressed by the audience. The winner will be awarded with **Premio Bergamo Film Meeting – UBI Banca** worth 5,000 euros, set up to support productions that invest in young authors, in independent and quality cinema. In addition to that, an **international jury** will grant 2,000 euros as prize money for the **Fondazione ASM Award for Best Director**. The jury will be chaired by Martha Otte, coordinator of the Tromsø International Film Festival programme, along with French director Dominique Cabrera and Luciano Barisone, journalist and film critic.

CLOSE-UP

Independent international productions never before screened in Italy. Documentary films in which the inquisitive and attentive gaze of the director delves without hesitation into the heart of reality, proving capable of grasping and synthesising the visible and the invisible, narrating a theme, a place, a character in "close-ups", with intensity and participation. Two awards will be assigned: worth € 2,000, the **Best Documentary CGIL Bergamo - Close UP Section** will be awarded based on the preferences expressed by the audience, as a recognition to promote independent film productions; the **CGIL Jury Prize**, worth € 1,000 and reserved for the film that best addresses the issues related to the labour market and working life, will be awarded by the CGIL Bergamo trade union delegates to the director of the best film in competition.

ANIMATION CINEMA. JEAN-FRANÇOIS LAGUIONIE

The protagonist of the BFM38 animation cinema section is one of the world's leading masters in the field, awarded this year with an Honorary Crystal at the Annecy Festival.

Born in 1939 and with a career spanning over 50 years, Frenchman Jean-François Laguionie is the author of nine short films and six feature films. His first work, *La Demoiselle et le violoncelliste* (*The Lady and the Cellist*, 1965), was a short film produced by his teacher Paul Grimault. His love for the ocean, nature and music - the recurring themes in all his films - are already palpable in this poetic debut. In 1978, he won the Short Film Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival with *La Traversée de l'Atlantique à la rame* (*Rowing Across the Atlantic*), a grotesque odyssey frozen in time. In 1985, after five years in the making, he released his first feature film: *Gwen, le livre de sable* (*Gwen, or The Book of Sand*), an extraordinary adventure set in an apocalyptic world invaded by sand, produced by La

Fabrique, an animation studio founded by Laguionie himself.

Then came *Le Château des singes* (*A Monkey's Tale*, 1999), loosely based on Italo Calvino's *Baron in the Trees*, and *L'Île de Black Mór* (*Black Mor's Island*, 2004), a pirate tale inspired by Laguionie's childhood readings and imagery. *Le Tableau* (*The Painting*, 2011) is an amazing animated journey into the world of art and *Louise en hiver* (*Louise by the Shore*, 2016) a delicate poem filled with memories and nostalgia.

Directed together with Xavier Picard and **presented for the first time in Italy** at Bergamo Film Meeting, Laguionie's latest work, *Le Voyage du Prince* (*The Prince's Voyage*) takes us to a planet ruled by monkeys to offer us a lucid vision of what civilization is or is not in a true environmentalist and anti-racist manifesto.

«Towards which magnetic pole are Jean-François Laguionie's fantastic journeys drawn? From the sands of *Gwen* to the abandoned seaside resort of *Louise en hiver*, from the rainforest in the *Château des singes* to the Venetian maze of the *Tableau*, like some kind of John Houston, Laguionie's journeys across both the emptiness of great solitudes, as well as the stage of human comedy, with an identical sort of absence and justification. Like a ship eluding combat and turning away offshore, his cinema aims not so much at a destination but at an "elsewhere", at a perpetual movement, a total wandering that, much like life itself, can perhaps only be resolved in a final shipwreck. An empty boat, covered with algae and shells, at the end of *La Traversée de l'Atlantique à la rame*; an elderly lady named Louise who, having missed the last train, must spend the winter alone, by the sea... ». (Xavier Kawa-Topor, general delegate of NEF Animation)

In collaboration with Festival International du Film de La Rochelle.

Jean-François Laguionie will be present in Bergamo.

The exhibition: *Gwen, or The Book of Sand*

On the occasion of the re-release of the film in a restored version, Bergamo Film Meeting presents for the first time in Italy an exhibition featuring paintings, drawings and work materials (in tempera and spanning from 1979 to 1984) of the first feature film by Jean-François Laguionie, *Gwen, le livre de sable*. A unique, experimental, captivating and awe-inspiring film; a post apocalyptic journey in the burning desert characterised by warm, dark and sometimes dreamlike tones.

Bergamo, Sala alla Porta Sant'Agostino, March 7 to 15

Opening hours: Mon. - Fri. 3.30PM - 7.30PM | Sat. - Sun. 11.00AM - 7.30PM | Free admission.

In collaboration with Le Fabrique Production.

BERGAMO FILM MEETING OPENS BERGAMO JAZZ

The unmissable passing of the torch between Bergamo Film Meeting and Bergamo Jazz is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, in the afternoon and will be divided into two consecutive moments. The first appointment, at 3.30pm, will be the screening of René Clément's *Les félins* (*Joy House*, 1964). An art-house film noir of great suspense, with music by Lalo Schifrin and starring by two great actors: Jane Fonda and Alain Delon. Following, at 6.00pm, the silent film *Herr Tartüff* (*Tartuffe*, 1925) by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau, an adaptation of Molière's comedy, where the outstanding camera work highlights a mischievous game of seduction and ambiguity. This film will be complemented by a live scoring performed by two leading personalities of the most advanced contemporary jazz: Rob Mazurek,

charismatic representative of the avant-garde scene of Chicago, and the Italian Gabriele Mitelli, both trumpet players and specialists in the use of live electronics.

In collaboration with Bergamo Jazz Festival.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bergamo Film Meeting has still many surprises in store: events, previews and educational offers created in collaboration with other institutions and long-time partners of the festival. Of particular importance are the partnerships, confirmed once again for the upcoming edition, with **GAMeC - Modern and Contemporary Arts Gallery** (Bergamo), the **Civica Scuola di Cinema Luchino Visconti** (Milan) and **The Blank Contemporary Art**.

On the occasion of the exhibition *Tiziano and Caravaggio in Peterzano*, curated by **Accademia Carrara**, there will be a screening of the feature film *Caravaggio, l'ultimo tempo* (2004) by Mario Martone: a visual journey in which the crude reality of today's Naples is juxtaposed with glimpses of the landscapes and imagery of Caravaggio's paintings. A heartfelt tribute to Naples and to the artist who lived there in the early 17th century.

New, on the other hand, is the collaboration with the **Orlando – Identità, relazioni, possibilità** festival, presenting in Bergamo the film *Cassandra, the Exotico!* (2018) by Marie Losier; a tale of struggle, suffering but also of victory, recounting, with great tenderness and empathy, the life of the greatest and openly gay Mexican wrestler.

Also new is the collaboration with **BAD (Bergamo Animation Days)**, the animation film event organised in Bergamo by ForFunMedia.

KINO CLUB. THE EDUCATIONAL OFFER FOR SCHOOLS

Also renewed for 2020 is the Kino Club section, the appointment with the students from preschools, primary and secondary schools in Bergamo and its province. Workshops, meetings with authors, guided screenings of feature films and short films among the most representative of the current trends for children and teenagers, supported by educational material and optimised for fruition by three age groups (Kids+, 11+ e 14+).

Among the proposed titles: *Amanda* by Mikhaël Hers (2019), *Buñuel en laberinto de las tortugas* (*Buñuel in the Labyrinth of the Turtles*, 2019) by Salvador Simó, and *Ruben Brandt, Collector* (2018) by Milorad Krstic, in addition to the masterpieces by French animator Jean-François Laguionie, - to whom this year's BFM retrospective is dedicated - such as *Gwen, le livre de sable* (*Gwen, the Book of Sands*, 1985), *Le Château des singes* (*A Monkey's Tale*, 1999), *L'Île de Black Mór* (*The Black Mór's Island*, 2004), *Le Tableau* (*The Painting*, 2011), *Louise en hiver* (*Louise by the Shore*, 2016) and *Le voyage du prince* (*The Prince's Voyage*, 2019).

There will be also room for a live scoring, by M° Gerardo Chimini, of two classic films of the silent era dated 1928: *La Petite Parade* and *L'horloge magique*, bearing the signature of Władysław Starewicz, Russian director and forerunner of the puppet animation technique (Wednesday March 11, 11.00am, Auditorium of Piazza della Libertà) and a selection of short films from the Animafest festival in Zagreb, along with the *Cartoni animati in corsia* project by Associazione Avisco.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Bergamo Film Meeting 38th edition call for volunteers is open and aimed at students and film fans interested in participating in the development of a major cultural event and working with the staff behind the scenes of one of the most prestigious film festivals in Italy and Europe.

A SUSTAINABLE FESTIVAL

In accord with the Minimum Environmental Criteria - parameters of environmental sustainability for cultural events - signed by the Municipality of Bergamo, the 38th of Bergamo Film Meeting will take part to the experimental **European Green Fest Project**. Digital ticketing reduced and low-impact printing, places accessible with public transport and zero-emission mobility solutions, recycling, Co2 reduction, gender equality, catering services with locally grown products, zero plastic: these are just some of the criteria we are committed to adhere to.

Like in its past editions, the Festival once again chose sustainable mobility thanks to a partnership with **ATB and TEB**, offering Weekly Pass holders the opportunity to travel for free on all public transport (buses, trams, funiculars) on Saturday March 9 and 16 and Sunday March 10 and 17. Moreover, our renewed partnership with FIAB Bergamo - **Pedalopolis**, the Bergamo organization which, since 2008, promotes the use of bicycles, from March 9 to 17 (except Sundays), offers all Professional Pass and Weekly Pass holders the possibility of renting a bicycle at a discounted price at *Ciclostazione 42* (near the Railway Station in Bergamo) and provides guarded free parking for its own vehicles in Piazza della Libertà.

BFM this year is also teaming up with **E-Vai**, electric car sharing company which will provide the vehicles that will be used for the transportation of all guests.

THE COLLABORATIONS

ELAV - MEETING POINT

The BFM38 daily after-parties will take place at the Meeting Point in Piazza della Libertà: the place to go to chill out and share opinions and feelings after a day of screenings. The venue will be managed by the Elav Independent Brewery, which will take care of the catering service with its own craft beer and an enticing offer of special events, tastings, live music and DJ sets.

UBI CITY

Thanks to the renewed partnership with UBI Banca, the BFM38 headquarters will be hosted at the UBI CITY in Piazza Vittorio Veneto. The space will host the accreditation office, the concierge and the press office of the next edition of the Festival.

VISIT BERGAMO

Visit Bergamo confirms its partnership with the Festival, with the aim of promoting the territory and the events that Bergamo has to offer.

Finally, the wines of the **Cantina Sociale Bergamasca** and the **Lucaffé** coffee will brighten up the moments of relaxation and sharing.

*The graphic design of Bergamo Film Meeting 38th and Support BFM campaign was created by **Sūqrepubliq**.*

THANKS TO

- Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali - Direzione Generale per il Cinema
- Unione Europea-Creative Europe - MEDIA
- Comune di Bergamo
- Regione Lombardia
- Camera di Commercio e Industria di Bergamo
- Provincia di Bergamo
- UBI Banca
- Fondazione della Comunità Bergamasca
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- Birrificio Indipendente ELAV
- CGIL Bergamo

- ATB - TEB
- Cantina Sociale Bergamasca
- E-Vai
- FIAB Bergamo - Pedalopolis
- Hotel Petronilla
- Lucaffè
- Visit Bergamo

- Accademia Carrara
- Animafest di Zagabria
- BAD (Bergamo Animation Days)
- Bergamo Jazz Festival
- Avisco - Audiovisivo Scolastico
- Civica Scuola di Cinema Luchino Visconti – Fondazione FM
- Festival International du Film de La Rochelle
- Fic - Federazione Italiana Cineforum
- Fondazione Alasca
- Fondazione Teatro Donizetti
- GAMeC - Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo
- Istituto Polacco di Roma
- Laba – Libera Accademia di Belle Arti
- Lab 80 film
- Laboratorio 80
- La Fabrique Production
- Nuovo Eden - Fondazione Brescia Musei
- Orlando - Identità, relazioni, possibilità
- The Blank Contemporary Art
- Ufficio Scolastico Territoriale di Bergamo