

BERGAMO FILM MEETING

International Film Festival

39th edition, April 24 - May 2, 2021

Mia Hansen-Løve (France) and João Nicolau (Portugal) are the protagonists of Europe, Now!, the Bergamo Film Meeting section dedicated to contemporary European filmmakers.

For this 39th edition of Bergamo Film Meeting, the exploration of contemporary European cinema will focus on the works of **Mia Hansen-Løve** (France) and **João Nicolau** (Portugal). The section will showcase - **for the first time in Italy** - the **complete works** of both these filmmakers, characterised by particular attention to the turmoil of individuals immersed in the contradictions of society and by the sharpness of their introspective approach to narration.

The section will also be complemented by a selection of graduation films from the European film schools participating in the **CILECT** program, in collaboration with the Civica Scuola di Cinema Luchino Visconti of Milan, and by the **Europe, Now! Film Industry Meetings (April 26-27)**, a two-day panel for film industry professionals established as a platform for networking and keeping up to date with the opportunities offered by festivals, markets, training programs, European and national funds.

Scheduled to take place between **April 24 and May 2**, the Festival offer also includes 7 feature films in Italian preview in the **Competition-Exhibition** section; 16 documentaries in the **Close-Up** section; a retrospective dedicated **Volker Schlöndorff**, director, screenwriter, producer, actor and one of the most significant representatives of post-war German cinema; an animation cinema section dedicated to the complete works of Polish animator **Izabela Plucińska**; the **Encounters - Cinema and Contemporary Art** section, exploring the possible contaminations between cinema and the arts; the **Kino Club** section, for young viewers; along with a diverse array of previews and **special events** made possible thanks to a network of collaborations with the most active local cultural institutions and enterprises of the territory.

The complete schedule of the 39th edition will be announced in mid-April.

Mia Hansen-Løve

Parisian, born in 1981, she made her debut as an actress at a very young age Olivier Assayas' *Fin août, début septembre* (Late August, Early September - 1998) and *Les destinées sentimentales* (Sentimental Destinies - 2000). Their artistic partnership would soon translate outside the set also. In 2001, Mia Hansen-Løve enrolled at the Conservatoire d'art dramatique in Paris, which she left after two years, when she began writing for Cahiers du Cinéma.

Shortly after, she moved behind the camera with a black and white short *Un pur esprit* (2004), immediately followed by another short, *Après mûre réflexion*, presented at the Locarno Film Festival.

In 2007, her first feature *Tout est pardonné* (All Is Forgiven), a story of family ties and abandonment, made its debut at the Quinzaine des réalisateurs at the Cannes Film Festival; the film was also awarded the Louis Delluc Prize and was nominated for Best First Feature at the Cèsar.

The following feature, *Le père de mes enfants* (Father of my children, 2009), portrays the decline of an established film producer and his decision to take his own life, leaving his wife and daughters to grapple with his material and spiritual legacy. The film won the Special Jury Prize at Cannes, in the Un Certain Regard section.

In 2012, Hansen-Løve won the Best Director's award at the Locarno Film Festival with *Un amour de jeunesse* (Goodbye First Love), where Lola Créton stars in an all-encompassing love story born during adolescence and consumed in adulthood.

After the release of *Eden* (2014), a portrait of the French music scene of the nineties inspired by the story of her brother Sven presented at the Toronto International Film Festival, in 2016 Mia Hansen-Løve directed Isabelle Huppert in *L'avenir* (Things to come), which earned her the Silver Bear for Best Director in Berlin. The film tells the story of a philosophy teacher whose seemingly perfect life begins to fall apart when her husband leaves her and her children leave home.

In September 2018, Hansen-Løve returned to Toronto for the preview of *Maya*, a trip to India of a young war reporter searching for peace and communion with the world, away from the ghosts of a traumatic past and present.

Director and screenwriter of all her works, through her films Mia Hansen-Løve has collected a series of portraits which, as she herself declared, are inspired by the people she met or loved, interweaving stories of love, abandonment, growth and rebirth. Nowadays, Mia Hansen-Løve is an established name among contemporary French filmmakers, beloved by critics who have followed her work from Festival to Festival, often comparing her to masters such as Truffaut and Rohmer.

Her latest feature film, *Bergman Island*, will be presented at the next Cannes Film Festival. Filmed entirely in English and starring Tim Roth, the film portrays the professional and personal relationship of a couple of American directors who retired to the island of Fårö - where Ingmar Bergman lived - to write a movie.

Mia Hansen-Løve will attend the Festival as a guest.

João Nicolau

João Nicolau was born in Lisbon and studied anthropology. He's a film director, editor, actor and musician. As an editor, he worked with João César Monteiro, Margarida Gil, Alessandro Comodin and Miguel Gomes.

In 1999 he shot the documentary *Calado não dá*, set on the island of Santiago in Cape Verde; *Rapace* (Bird of Prey), presented at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006, in Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires and at the Viennale, is his first fiction short film starring a boy whose life is shaken by a beautiful young translator.

In 2009 he directed the short film *Canção de amor e saúde* (Song of Love and Health), also selected at Cannes for the Quinzaine des réalisateurs.

In 2010 he finished his first feature film, *A espada e a rosa* (The Sword and The Rose); screened at the Venice Film Festival in the Orizzonti section, in San Paulo and Buenos Aires, the film tells the story of a young Lisbonese obsessed with order who decides to embark on a 15th century Portuguese caravel and live according to piracy codes.

In 2012 came the short film *O dom das lágrimas* (The Gift of Tears), an iconographic journey immersed in Lusitanian imagery. In 2013 he returned to Cannes with *Gambozinos* (A Wild Goose Chase), a short story about the experience of a ten-year-old boy at summer camp.

Presented in Seville, Turin, Belfort and San Paolo, his second feature *John From* (2015), is a brilliant and somewhat outlandish comedy that revolves around the character of Rita, a teenager discovering the world, and her love fantasies.

His latest work, *Technoboss* (2019), premiered at the Locarno film festival. The protagonist, Luís Rovisco, is a safety device technician; as retirement approaches, he realises the futility of the time spent at work and gives in to what makes him feel alive instead: music, dancing and the taste of youth.

João Nicolau will attend the Festival as a guest.

In collaboration with Agência - Portuguese Short Film Agency, O Som e a Fúria and LUSO - Travelling exhibition of the new portuguese cinema. Under the patronage of the Portuguese Consulate in Milan.

EUROPE, NOW! FILM INDUSTRY MEETINGS

Meet the European Decision Makers - April 26-27, 2021

Alongside the strongly European-oriented cinematic selections offered by the Festiva - the guest directors' masterclasses, the retrospectives and the tributes of the "Europe, Now!" section - BFM presents a two-day professional panel, scheduled for April 26 and 27 April in live streaming, which aims to be a networking platform for keeping up to date on the opportunities that festivals, markets, training programs, European and national funds offer today to young Italian directors and producers, with a focus on internationalisation and professionalisation given the new objectives and challenges ushered in by the new seven-year term of Creative Europe (2021-2027).

Both days will feature an international panel discussion, some significant case histories and dedicated networking slots.

In collaboration with Creative Europe Desk Italy, AGICI and AIR3 - Italian Directors Guild.

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