

76th Venice International Film Festival

Lido is ready to welcome its guests once again: the 76th Venice International Film Festival will take place from **August 28th** to **September 7th**, 2019.

Created to celebrate Italian culture, focusing on the movie industry, the Venetian film festival transformed massively since 1932, hosting an immense number of directors, actors and artists; the only thing that has not changed during the years is the great interest that this event is able to attract, with yearly raising numbers of attendance: tickets are selling like hotcakes and subscriptions finished at the beginning of the sale.

The edition of **2019** seems then to be the product of a newly found perspective, with Biennale Cinema focusing on themes such as: the reconstruction of past events as glasses that allow a better view on the present, and the seventh art as a medium that can be used to investigate reality rather than being an instrument for escapism.

Despite the premises the festival will present a great number of genres, from thrillers to animation.

Last year, on its 75th edition, of the **21 movies** selected to compete for the Golden Lion **only one was directed by a woman** – earning festival organisers a severe backlash in terms of public image. While **Guillermo del Toro** passionately spoke about fighting for these numbers to change – to progress toward an industry that recognises women both in front and behind a camera -, directors **Barbera** and **Baratta** seemed to struggle to find a satisfying answer when addressed on the issue.

This topic, propelled by the **#metoo** scandal, certainly was one of the stepping stones that lead this year festival to focus

so much on the condition of women in the world – and in the movie business as well -.

[embedded content]

Young filmmakers will be the protagonists of this year, but established authors will not miss with ten Oscar winners among the guests and jury, **Roman Polanski** certainly being one of the most awaited returns; as well as **Steven Soderbergh**, **Pablo Larraín** who will come back to the Lido as well after receiving an award at the 73th edition of the festival and **Hirokazu Kore-eda** who will start the dances with his *La Vérité*, starring **Catherine Deneuve**, **Juliette Binoche** e **Ethan Hawke**.

To mention a few other: Brad Pitt, Robert De Niro, Joaquin Phoenix, Antonio Banderas, Donald Sutherland, John Malkovich, Jude Law, Roman Polanski, Meryl Streep, Louis Garrel, Jean Dujardin, Johnny Deep, Roger Waters e Mick Jagger, Julie Andrews, **Pedro Almodovar** – who will be awarded for his brilliant career – will be present as well.

[embedded content]

While **Todd Phillips'***Joker* is certainly one of the most debated movies participating to the contest, Lido is excitedly awaiting for **Haifaa Al-Mansour**, the first female director from Saudi Arabia, with her *The Perfect Candidate*, portraying the story of a young doctor who runs for mayor of an ultra-conservative town; **Swede Roy Andersson** will present his *About Endlessness*, after being awarded with a Golden Lion for *A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence* in 2014.

French director **Olivier Assayas** will bring his *Wasp Network*, an espionage movie on a group of special agents working for the Cuban government of Castro; the cast features Penélope Cruz and Gael García Bernal.

That's only a taste! These are only few of the movies that will be presented, unluckily Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman* will not be part of it:

Barbera: Martin Scorsese? It is a dream we all cherished, but the film isn't ready, we're talking of late November.

Yet the list is rich and varied. The selection for this year's edition for the competition:

The Truth – Hirokazu Kore-eda (France/Japan) (opening film)
The Perfect Candidate – Haifaa Al-Mansour (Saudi Arabia/Germany)
About Endlessness – Roy Andersson (Sweden/Germany/Norway)
Wasp Network – Olivier Assayas (France/Belgium)
Marriage Story – Noah Baumbach (US)
Guest of Honour – Atom Egoyan (Canada)
Ad Astra – James Gray (US)
A herdade – Tiago Guedes (Portugal/France)
Gloria Mundi – Robert Guédiguian (France/Italy)
Waiting for the Barbarians – Ciro Guerra (US/Italy)
Ema – Pablo Larraín (Chile)
Saturday Fiction (Lan xin da ju yuan) – Lou Ye (China)
Martin Eden – Pietro Marcello (Italy/France)
La mafia non è più quella di una volta – Franco Maresco (Italy)
The Painted Bird – Václav Marhoul (Czech Republic/Ukraine/Slovakia)
Il sindaco del Rione Sanità – Mario Martone (Italy)
Babyteeth – Shannon Murphy (Australia)
Joker – Todd Phillips (US)
An Officer and a Spy – Roman Polanski (France/Italy)
The Laundromat – Steven Soderbergh (US)
No. 7 Cherry Lane (Ji yuan tai qi hao) – Yonfan (Hong Kong)

For the whole list [click here](#).

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