



MASTERCLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE 24TH EDITION OF THE ROME INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL - RIFF AWARDS 2025

Cinema Towards the New Frontiers of AI

From November 21st to 28th at the Nuovo Cinema Aquila and Cinema Farnese

The twenty-fourth edition of the **RIFF** - Rome Independent Film Festival, which will take place from November 21st to 28th under the artistic direction of **Academy Award** winner **Paul Haggis**, will feature a series of special events, including masterclasses and meetings dedicated to cinema, screenwriting, and the new frontiers of audiovisual production.

On Saturday, November 22nd, at 6:00 PM at the Nuovo Cinema Aquila, the first special event will be held: a masterclass with director of photography **Roberto Forza**. The exploration of the world of cinematic photography continues. After hosting figures like Luciano Tovoli, Fabrizio Lucci, and Paolo Carnera, this year the RIFF welcomes Roberto Forza, a David di Donatello nominee for *I Cento Passi* and director of photography for iconic films like *Romanzo di una Strage*, *La Meglio Gioventù*, and *La Mafia Uccide Solo d'Estate*. Forza will guide participants through the art of lighting and camera work, sharing his creative process and the challenges of the profession.

On Sunday, November 23rd, at 5:00 PM at the Nuovo Cinema Aquila, the round table "**Disobedient Visions - Cinema, Algorithms, and AI**" will take place. This year, the RIFF dedicates a special space to AI-generated cinema, exploring new forms of visual storytelling and creation. This is an open conversation to understand how AI is redefining vision, imagination, and creative freedom in contemporary cinema.

On Monday, November 24th, at 6:30 PM at the Cinema Farnese, it will be the turn of "**The Challenges of Writing for TV and Cinema**". In a constantly evolving audiovisual landscape, writing remains the pulsating heart of every story. In this meeting, Oscar winner **Paul Haggis** (*Crash*, *Million Dollar Baby*), **Stefano Bises** (*Esterno Notte*, *Gomorra*), and **Daniele Cesarano** (*Romanzo Criminale*, drama head for Mediaset) will discuss topics such as character building, narrative tension, the transition from idea to screenplay, and the relationship between creativity and industry. It will be a unique opportunity to understand how a great story is born and developed, balancing authorial vision with new modes of global production.

On Thursday, November 27th, at 6:00 PM at the Biblioteca Mameli, film critic and historian **Lapo Gresleri** will present his book ***Black Images Matter***. the first Italian study entirely dedicated to new

African-American cinema. The meeting, with the participation of Fabio Germani, journalist and editor of Mookie, will explore the works of directors like Jordan Peele, Ryan Coogler, Ava DuVernay, Barry Jenkins, and Lee Daniels, analyzing how these authors redefine Black representation on the big screen and contribute to an alternative vision of America.

The RIFF - Rome Independent Film Festival thus confirms its role as a cultural and educational platform, capable of combining innovation and critical reflection, bringing together Italian and international masters, emerging talent, and future technologies.

The Festival, organized by the RIFF Cultural Association, is made possible with the contribution and patronage of the Directorate General for Cinema - **Ministry of Culture** and the **Lazio Region**, Regional Directorate for Presidential Affairs, Tourism, Cinema, Audiovisual, and Sport

Press Room

<https://riff.it/media-room/sala-stampa/>

Trailer YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@RIFFit>

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