**ROME INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 25th EDITION – RIFF AWARDS 2026**

**THE 25th EDITION TO TAKE PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 4 AT NUOVO CINEMA AQUILA AND CINEMA PALAZZO**

**JURY MEMBERS INCLUDE BARBARA BUSSO, CRISTIAN CASELLA, GIANCARLO CHETTA, FABIO MAZZEO, MARIO COLAMARINO, BENJAMIN MINOT, RAFAEL, AND ALESSANDRO ROSSETTO**

From November 27 to December 4, Rome returns as the capital of independent cinema with the 25th edition of the RIFF – Rome Independent Film Festival. The event, which has brought the best of new international filmmaking to the capital for 25 years, will kick off on Thursday, November 26 at 7:00 PM. The official presentation and press conference will be held at Palazzo Baldoca Muccioli (via Giulia 167), attended by the jury and competing filmmakers.

Jurors for the 25th edition of the festival are: Barbara Busso (production director); Cristian Casella (entrepreneur, producer, and publisher); Giancarlo Chetta (audiovisual management and co-production expert); Fabio Mazzeo (architect and interior designer); Mario Colamarino (president of the "Mario Mieli" Homosexual Culture Circle); Benjamin Minot (director and filmmaker); Rafael (artist and experimental filmmaker); and Alessandro Rossetto (director, screenwriter, and producer). Furthermore, in addition to the audience jury this year, the RIFF Awards 2026 is honored to welcome "The Women Exhibitors' Choice - The Jury by MEDIA Salles". This initiative, promoted by MEDIA Salles with a jury of European exhibitors and programmers, was created to promote gender equality and highlight women's cinema in theaters.

Screenings, meetings, and masterclasses will be held at Nuovo Cinema Aquila and Palazzo San Lorenzo in Rome. The final awards ceremony for the RIFF Awards 2026 will take place on Friday, December 4 at 9:00 PM, with awards presented across 13 competing categories.

Highlights among this year's events, masterclasses, and focus sessions include:

- **The Challenges of Cinema and TV - Writing the Story, Rewriting It in Editing:** A special meeting at Cinema Palazzo San Lorenzo with Academy Award winner Paul Haggis and editor/producer Jo Francis (ACE). They will discuss storytelling and narrative development between directorial vision and global production (*In the Valley of Elah*, *The Next Three Days*, *Third Person*).

- **Masterclass with Gherardo Gossi:** At Nuovo Cinema Aquila, the renowned cinematographer (*Diaz*, *Johnny the Partisan*, *The Sweet Ship*) will host the workshop "From Camera to Light: Building the Cinematic Image on Set".
- **Climate Future Film Festival:** Four short films selected by Edward Norton and eight international works dedicated to environmental challenges, featuring Bill McKibben as Honorary Judge.
- **Disobedient Visions II - Hackering the Frame:** A workshop and roundtable focused on the impact of artificial intelligence, audiovisual storytelling, and visual justice, featuring insights from Riccardo Luna and Lorenzo Sportiello.
- **Pitch & Meetings - RIFF Meets the Finalists:** A public event at Nuovo Cinema Aquila bringing together producers, distributors, and the finalists of the RIFF Subjects & Screenplays competition.
- **Rediscovered Classics & Out-of-Competition Screenings:** A screening of the documentary film *Chiusura* by Alessandro Rossetto, restored by Cinecittà.
- **Human Rights and Documentary:** A screening of *Dalla terra al mare* by Lorenzo Baldi, followed by the "Global Sumud Flotilla" panel dedicated to investigative and journalistic cinema.
- **Performance and Experimental Projects:** *Rafaël - Live Cinema & Experimental Realities*, an immersive expanded cinema and audiovisual improvisation experience, alongside the video installation *Seyeol 13*.

The Festival, organized by the RIFF Cultural Association, is produced with the support and patronage of the Directorate General for Cinema of the Ministry of Culture and the Lazio Region (Regional Directorate for Presidency Affairs, Tourism, Cinema, Audiovisual, and Sport).

**Press Materials:**
https://riff.it/en/media-room/press-office/

**Film Trailers on YouTube:**
https://www.youtube.com/@RIFFit

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