



ROME INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 24TH EDITION

RIFF AWARDS

WITH OVER 88 ITALIAN PREMIERES

OSCAR-WINNER PAUL EDWARD HAGGIS
NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE FESTIVAL

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

Rome is preparing to host the 24th edition of the RIFF - Rome Independent Film Festival, which from **November 21st to 28th** will once again transform the capital city into the hub of international independent cinema. The 2025 edition will be artistically guided by Oscar-winner **Paul Haggis**, who takes over from founder Fabrizio Ferrari, consolidating the festival's commitment to promoting new visions and innovative languages.

The competition features 13 national and international sections, which will be evaluated by a jury of experts. The RIFF.

The 2025 **Jury** includes prominent figures from the artistic and cultural scene: Ben Minot, American cinematographer; Gabriele Ciampi, Italian composer; Barbara Busso, production director; Mario Colamarino, president of the Mario Mieli Cultural Circle; Enzo D'Alò, director and screenwriter; Teresa Monaco, casting director.

The screenings will be held at the Nuovo Cinema Aquila and the Cinema Farnese, with a program that includes over eighty-eight Italian premieres, including feature films, documentaries, short films, animated films, experimental projects, and productions created with artificial intelligence.

The Italian feature film competition presents a rich array of first and second films and new voices: **6.06** by Tekla Taidelli, **E se mio padre** by Sole Tonnini, **Even** by Giulio Ancora, **L'acqua non è mai ferma** by Roberto Mariotti, a world premiere, as well as **Per un po'** by Simone Valentini, and **Una storia vera** by Mariano Lamberti, presented as a European premiere with an intimate story connected to the LGBTQ+ community.

On the international front, works from around the world include **Eva by William Reyes**, a co-production between Honduras and Colombia, making its world premiere; **Impatience of the Heart** by German director **Lauro Cress**, making its Italian premiere; **Violent Butterfly** by Mexican director **Adolfo Dávila**, making its European premiere; **The Anatomy of the Horses** by **Daniel Toche**, a co-production between Spain, Peru, Colombia, and France; and **Where Do We Begin** by Polish director **Monika Majorek**, making its Italian premiere.

The documentary section alternates Italian and international projects. Among the Italian films, stand out are **Arte Sciopero** by Luca Immesi, **Buio in sala** by Davide Giorni, **Dialoghi della terra dei ghiacci** by Francesco Leprino, **Paolo Chimeri – Libera Sostanza** by Marco Kveller, **R-Evolution: The Roman Hip Hop Family Revolution** by Yari Schembri, and **She** by Parsifal Reparato.

On the international front, **Syria: The Fall of the Assad Clan** by **Edith Bouvier** (France), **Magdalena Hausen: Frozen Time** by **Yannis Karpouzis** (Greece and Germany), **Stop Killing Our Women** (Noken Kilim Meri) by **Marco Venditti** (Papua New Guinea), and **Sami Song** by **Lara Lee** (a co-production between the USA, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia) are also coming.

The short film universe is divided into numerous sections. The **AI Shorts section** presents a creative dialogue between technology and imagination, with titles such as **Animalz Part One** by Luca Ontino and Simone Bocchino, **Body Freak** by Jorge Luis Velandia, **Echo Hunter** by Kavan Cardoza, **Il Lupo di Curio** by Kevin Merz,

Imperia by Marcel, Last Dream by Takeshi Kushida, Roommate from Hell by Tyler B. Cohen, Space Falls on Earth by Nicolas Russeil, Synthetic Era by Vincenzo Bafaro, and Vera's Uncanny Journey by Gregory J. Rossi. The international program of shorts instead offers a journey between different cultures and sensibilities, with Ada by Ceylan Özgün Özçelik (Turkey), Lev Berger by Jan Fabris (Slovenia), Magid / Zafar by Luís Hindman (UK), Pay Day by Raphael Aherne (Ireland), Pies Manos by Paco Calvo (Mexico), Sàga by Maïlys Gelin and Clément Grosdenier (France), The Land of Wanting More by Marianna Rantou (Greece), The Evaluation by Laura Kazbaraite (Lithuania), Under Rays by Jörn Staeger (Germany) and What Freedom by Paul James (USA). The section dedicated to film schools brings together works from international academies and institutes, including Birthday by Pavel Zelenkov, Deepflix by Quentin Bitran, Dog and Wolf by Terézia Halamová, (In)Visible by Sam Joseph, My Secret Cyberlove by Bartosz Stankiewicz, Tears and Tarantella by Gina Carroccia and Una persona vera by Stefano Pio.

The animations instead offer a kaleidoscope of styles and poetics with A Tender Dream by Nazli Eda Noyan, Anima by Fabio Bonvicini, Meteoric by Paul Ó Muiris, Rukeli by Alessandro Rak, The Crooked Heads by Jakub Krzysypin, The Mud Under My Window by Violette Delvoye, The Lost Echo by Andrew Cyr-Marcoux, The Hunger by Yuehan Ma and Tiny Film About Turnips by Tereza Nebe Motýlová.

The selection is rounded out by **Italian short films**, including Dolcemente by Alessandro Parrello, Erion by Marius Gabriel Stancu, Gonfiami by Iacopo Zanon, Hi Mike by Antonio Cinque, Il silenzio del bianco by Francesca Sicoli, In The Box by Francesca Staasch, Jusqu'au prochain souffle by Andrea Di Salvatore, La bambina di carta by Fabio Vasco, La colonna by Antonio Cofano, The imperfect form of memories by Elisa Adelaide Faccioni, La talpa by Marco Santoro, Le cose puntate by Giulia Giordano, Marinella by Giuseppe Arena, O Mundo de Lokal by Dalia Silvestri, Rewind Agency by Antonella Spatti, Strappi by Alberto Pompei, Teresina by Irene Belluzzi, A dog meows a cat barks by Alessandro Prato, UNA by Ludovica Clemente, Vitriolage by Luca Cavalli, and Yellow Liminal by Francesco Thérèse.

On Friday, the 21st, starting at 4:30 PM, screenings will begin at the Nuovo Cinema Aquila with French-language shorts, including Deepflix by Quentin Bitran, The Mud Outside My Window by Violette Delvoye, The Lost Echo by Andrew Cyr-Marcoux, and Sàga by Maïlys Gelin and Clément Grosdenier. Starting at 6:30 pm, Italian shorts will be screened, with La colonna by Antonio Cofano, O Mundo de Lokal by Dalia Silvestri, and Yellow Liminal by Francesco Thérèse, followed at 8:15 pm by the feature film L'acqua non è mai ferma by Roberto Mariotti and UNA by Ludovica Clemente.

On Saturday the 22nd, starting at 4:00 pm, the program will focus on Italian shorts, including Una persona vera by Stefano Pio, Strappi by Alberto Pompei, and Il silenzio del bianco by Francesca Sicoli. A masterclass with cinematographer Roberto Forza will take place at 6:00 pm, followed at 8:15 pm by the previews of Even by Giulio Ancora, and Una storia vera by Mariano Lamberti, which will premiere at 10:00 pm.

On Sunday the 23rd, starting at 3:30 pm, the festival will explore cinema created with artificial intelligence, with works such as Animalz – Part One by Luca Ontino and Simone Bocchino and Echo Hunter by Kavan Cardoza. Following at 5:00 PM, the roundtable discussion "Disobedient Visions: Cinema, Algorithms, and AI" will screen, followed by a small selection of Italian shorts from 6:30 PM. The evening will feature Impatience of the Heart by Lauro Cress at 8:15 PM, and Buio in sala by Davide Giorni at 10:20 PM.

Monday the 24th will feature Luca Immesì's Arte Sciopero at 6:30 PM, Adolfo Dávila's Mexican short Violent Butterfly at 8:15 PM, and the international shorts Magid/Zafar by Luís Hindman and Pies Manos by Paco Calvo at 4:00 PM. At 6:30 PM at the Cinema Farnese, Paul Haggis will discuss "The Challenges of Writing for TV and Film" with Stefano Bises and Daniele Cesarano, followed at 9:00 PM by the preview of Eva by William Reyes.

On Tuesday the 25th, from 4:00 pm, there will be short films from film schools, followed by the documentary Paolo Chimeri – Libera Sostanza by Marco Kveller at 7:45 pm, and at 9:30 pm, the feature film 6.06 by Tekla Taidelli, winner of the SIAE Award at Venezia82 and two awards at the Ortigia Film Festival 2025. At the Cinema Farnese, starting at 7:00 pm, screenings will include: The Evaluation by Laura Kazbaraite, The Sami Song by Iara Lee, and from 9:00 pm, The Crooked Heads by Jakub Krzysypin and Where Do We Begin by Monika Majorek.

On Wednesday the 26th, international animations will alternate, including Anima by Fabio Bonvicini and Tiny Film About Rape by Tereza Nebe Motýlová, the environmental documentary Dialoghi della terra dei ghiacci by Francesco Leprino, and the feature films E se mio padre by Sole Tonnini and R-Evolution by Yari Schembri.

At the Cinema Farnese, starting at 7:00 pm, Syria: The Fall of the Assad Clan by Edith Bouvie will be shown, and at 9:00 pm, The Anatomy of the Horses by Daniel Vidal Toche.

On Thursday the 27th, starting at 6:00 pm, screenings of Magdalena Hausen: Frozen Time by Yannis Karpouzis and Stop Killing Our Women by Marco Venditti will be shown, followed by Per un po' by Simone Valentini. Concurrently, at the Mameli Library, Lapo Gresleri will present his new book, Black Images Matter. Styles, Themes, and Trends in New African-American Cinema.

At 8:15 pm, "Per un po'" by Simone Valentini will be shown, followed by the short films "In The Box" by Francesca Staasch, "Pay Day" by Raphael Aherne, "La talpa" by Marco Santoro, and "Erion" by Marius Gabriel Stancu, starting at 10:00 pm.

The festival will conclude on Friday, November 28th with the "AntropicA" pitching day, the award ceremony for the winning screenplays and films, and the final screening of "She" by Parsifal Reparato, before the closing ceremony of the 2025 RIFF Awards.

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

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Trailer YouTube:

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