



## EURO BALKAN FILM FESTIVAL

presents

ANTEPRIMA DI FESTIVAL

20 - 21 APRIL 2024, TIRANA

The **Euro Balkan Film Festival** in Rome aims to be primarily a comprehensive showcase of the excellence that characterises Balkan film culture in its articulated diversity, wherever in Europe is produced. In particular, this event aims at fostering the conditions for the growth of co-productions and the distribution of film products between Italy and Balkan Europe, proposes training initiatives for young filmmakers with the aim of raising their awareness of co-productions, and promotes the development of audiences interested in film culture of the area.

With this in mind, the 20-21 April appointment, entitled **Anteprima di Festival** (Festival Preview), presents at Cinema Millennium a carefully curated selection of co-productions from our past editions, with the ambition of developing an intercultural dialogue, exploring the shared roots between Italian and Balkan communities, promoting the prospects of collaboration throughout the dialogue between authors and professionals, and presenting the broad outlines of the 2024 edition of the Festival, renamed Euro Balkan Film Festival in homage to the common European origins of all Balkan cinema.

The screenings will be paired by a valuable opportunity for in-depth discussion and debate between Italian and Balkan cinema professionals thanks to a **panel on training and film co-production between Italy and the Balkans**: a meeting hosted by the prestigious Film and Multimedia Academy Marubi, which will offer a privileged look at the creative and productive process of Italian-Balkan collaborations in the world of cinema, certainly ensuring hints and inspirations for future synergies and partnerships.

In this context, we hope that our viewers will feel genuinely eager to discover new, engaging films and stories by sharing the programme of the **Anteprima di Festival** event, hereby detailed.



OCCHIO BLU  
*Anna Cenerini Boca*



Shogata Kulturorë  
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SATURDAY 20 APRIL

 [FILM AND MULTIMEDIA ACADEMY MARUBI](#)

**10:30 - Panel on training and film co-production between Italy and the Balkans**

Welcome and greetings by:

- **Kujtim Cashku**, Film Director and Director of the Film and Multimedia Academy Marubi, who will introduce the screening of a short film by a student of the Academy.
- **Mario Bova**, President of the Italo-Balkan Association Occhio Blu and Director of the Euro Balkan Film Festival.

Speakers:

- **Roberto Stabile**, Cinecittà's Head of International Relations - Co-production and distribution: strategic borders between Italian and Balkan cinematography.
- **Jonid Jorgji**, Director of the Creative Industries Agency of the Municipality of Tirana and Advisor of the Euro Balkan Film Festival - Problems and perspectives of film co-productions between Italy and Albania; the collaboration between the Balkan Film Market and the Euro Balkan Film Festival for the Italian-Balkan co-production.
- **More Raça**, film director - The experience of *Andromeda Galaxy* and the strategic importance of co-production for Kosovar cinematography. What perspectives for Italian-Kosovar co-productions?
- **Ylljet Alicka**, writer, screenwriter and former Ambassador of Albania in Paris - Co-production between Italy and Albania: opportunities and critical issues to overcome.
- **Amedeo Pagani**, producer for Luna Film - Great experiences with Balkan cinema: advice for bringing Italian and Balkan cinema closer.
- **Genc Permeti**, film director - The Italian-Albanian co-production: difficulties and potential of cultural collaboration.
- **Niko Ajazi**, film director and producer - Why co-produce with Italy: successes, difficulties and new strategies for an effective route.
- **Ado Hasanović**, film director and curator of *CineMosaic* - The project of cooperation and the role of Balkan schools.
- **Mimmo Calopresti**, film director and Advisor to the Artistic Direction of the Euro Balkan Film Festival - Educational experiences for the development of co-productions.
- **Gregor Božič**, film director - The state of Italian-Slovenian co-production: critical issues, innovations and cultural collaborations. The role of the Italian Film Commissions as seen from the Adriatic.
- **Diana Çuli**, writer and film teacher. Literature and cinema in the Balkans: the experience of Albania.
- **Steve Della Casa**, film critic and Advisor to the Artistic Direction of the Euro Balkan Film Festival - The great history of Italian-Balkan co-production over the last sixty years and the *CineMosaic* project: a workshop of "working together" between young Italians and Balkans.



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- **Eriona Vyshka**, archivist and Head of catalogue, PR and office management at the National Film Archive of Albania - The recent partnership with the Italian company Augustus Color for the preservation of the Albanian film heritage;
- **Kujtim Cashku**, film director and Director of the Film and Multimedia Academy Marubi - The importance of training in the growth of co-productions and the role of the Marubi School in the project *CineMosaic*.

Conclusion by **Mario Bova**.

## CINEMA MILLENNIUM

**17:00** – Presentation of the 7th edition of the Euro Balkan Film Festival in Rome by **Mario Bova**, President of the Occhio Blu Association.

### following

Retrospective from the Balkan Film Festival 2023 with the short film **A SHORT TRIP** (2023, 17'), directed by Erenik Beqiri | Albania, France.

Introduced by **Erenik Beqiri** with **Ado Hasanović**.

*Mira and Klodi, a young Albanian couple, arrive in Marseille for a crucial business deal. When they find themselves at the fateful meeting, in a room full of awaiting men, there is no time to lose: faced with the urgency of the choice, the two young people must confront the growing need to detach themselves from each other. A raw and sharp look at the behind the scenes of obtaining French citizenship.*

**18:00** – Retrospective from the Balkan Film Festival 2021 with the film **STORIES FROM THE CHESTNUT WOODS** (2019, 85'), by Gregor Božič | Slovenia, Italy.

Introduced by **Gregor Božič** with **Steve Della Casa**.

*Late 1950s. In a remote valley on the Italian-Yugoslav border, the inhabitants flee from post-war misery and rising political tensions. Only old people remain there, in small stone settlements among dark forests, and with them their archaic ideas about life, their stories and myths. Loosely inspired by Chekhov's short stories and the fairy tales of the region, the film explores the isolation, loneliness and regrets of the protagonists as they try to find meaning beyond apparent reality.*

**20:00** – Retrospective from the Balkan Film Festival 2023 with the winning short film **THINGS UNHEARD OF** (2023, 15'), by Ramazan Kiliç | Turkey.

Introduced by **Ado Hasanović**.

*A Kurdish girl tries to make her grandmother smile again after her television, her only window on the world, was destroyed.*



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SUNDAY 21 APRIL

 **CINEMA MILLENNIUM**

**17:00** – Retrospective from the Balkan Film Festival 2021 with the film **ANDROMEDA GALAXY** (2020, 80'), by More Raça | Kosovo, France, Macedonia, Italy.

Introduced by **More Raça** with **Adriano Ercolani**.

*Shpëtim, a 52-year-old mechanic from Kosovo, has been unemployed for some time. After the death of his wife and the placement of his daughter Zana in an orphanage, he finds himself homeless. When he gets rejected for a job application and is again evicted for unpaid rent, Shpëtim ends up living in a caravan. Although the orphanage offers a better environment for Zana, Shpëtim is convinced he can offer her a better future in the West: he accepts a prostitute's offer to become her driver and bodyguard to pursue this dream.*

**18:30** – Retrospective from the Balkan Film Festival 2023 with the short film **SEARCHING FOR JUSTICE** (2023, 24'), by Ado Hasanović | Bosnia and Herzegovina, Netherlands, Italy, Germany.

Introduced by **Ado Hasanović** with **Adriano Ercolani**.

*Law students from the universities of Leiden and Sarajevo question the role of justice before and after interviewing three survivors of the Srebrenica genocide. Was justice fulfilled at the time? Did the international community do enough in the process of raising awareness about this tragedy?*

**19:30** – Retrospective from the Balkan Film Festival 2023 with the winning feature film **SAFE PLACE** (2022, 102'), by Juraj Lerotić | Croatia, Slovenia.

Introduced by **Ado Hasanović** and **Mimmo Calopresti**.

*A suicide attempt creates a rift in the existence of a family, overwhelmed by a war invisible to the eyes of anyone else. The director plays himself in the role of a young man who, together with his mother, follows his brother Damir, oppressed by suicidal impulses, in vain. Between hospitals and police stations, between Zagreb and Split, Damir shows less and less perception of reality, while his brother and mother try to react rationally to each event and unexpected twist.*



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