



Wrap Up: 73rd Venice International Film Festival Continues to Mesmerize

Description

I attended my first Venice International Film Festival at the Cinema del Palazzo complex in Lido this year from the [Pre-Opening Night](#) event August 30th through Closing Night September 10th, 2016 as an accredited media entity.

The Venice Film Festival is the oldest film festival in the world with a [history dating to 1932](#). This year was the 73rd edition showing little signs of its age. Steeped in glamor and tradition, the festival remains a testament to the cinematic arts with its viewing venues and its programming.

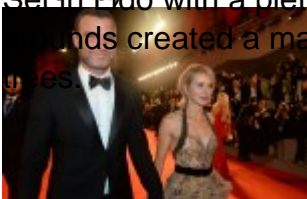


Italian Actress Monica Bellucci takes a moment to sign an autograph on the Red Carpet at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. (Photo courtesy of ASAC Images/Biennale Cinema)



Amy Adams walks the Red Carpet in a shoulder baring black dress at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. (Photo courtesy of ASAC Images/Biennale

Sinema). Set in Lido with a plethora of screens each only a score or two steps away, these hallowed cinema grounds created a magical setting adorned with cafes, raised walkways, and abundance of shade



Cinema patrons making their way between venues during the 73rd Venice International Film

Festival. (Photo credit: Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee)



Last night and final view of the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. (Photo credit: Larry Gleeson/)

The real magic, however, took place inside the cinema!

Leading the way were the spell-binding performances of Lily-Rose Depp and Natalie Portman in [Planetary](#) from Director Rebecca Zlotowski.



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Planetarium Director, Rebecca Zlotowski. (Photo courtesy of ASAC Images/Biennale Cinema)

Award-winning, Tom Ford's [Nocturnal Animals](#), took home the Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize for Best Film. *Nocturnal Animals* captured my eye and imagination with its captivating story lines, exceptionally rich, mise-en-scene and wildly, powerful acting. Damien Chazelle and crew mesmerized audiences with their dazzling [La La Land](#). The lovely Emma Stone received the Best Actress Silver Lion Volpi Cup for her heartfelt, soul-revealing performance as Mia.



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Director Lav Diaz, left, with *Ang Babaeng Humayo* film delegation at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival.

This year's Golden Lion for Best Film went to Lav Diaz for his painstaking drama, *Ang Babaeng Humayo* (The Woman Who Left), an epic story with a runtime of 226 minutes. The film follows one woman rediscovering her homeland after a 30 year stay in a correctional facility.



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For a complete list of winners [click here](#).

Other noteworthy films, not already mentioned, included: [Paradise](#), a Russian Federation film, set amidst the Nazi WWII reign of terror (Director Andrei Konchalovsky garnered Silver Lion for Best Director for his *Paradise* efforts); Terrence Malick's [Voyage of Time: Life's Journey](#), winner of the 5th Green Drop Award awarded by Green Cross Italy to films that bring attention to the values of ecology and sustainable development; [Jackie](#), Pablo Larrain's portrait of the iconic First Lady, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy (Noah Oppenheim won Best Screenplay for *Jackie*); and [Orecchie](#), a Biennale College – Cinema Production, directed by Alessandro Aronadio and produced by Costanza Coldagelli.



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A special note of thanks to this year's ushers for their efforts in ensuring my safety and well-being at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. Until next year, Ciao!



Ushers at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. (Photo credit: Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee)

*Featured photo courtesy of Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee

Category

1. Venice International Film Festival

Tags

1. 73rd Venice International Film Festival
2. Actor
3. Al Leone D'Oro
4. Alessandro Aronadio
5. Amy Adams
6. andrei Konchalovsky
7. Ang Babaeng Humayo
8. Awards
9. Cinema
10. Costanza Coldagelli
11. Damien Chazelle
12. Director
13. Emma Stone
14. Festival
15. Film
16. Filmmaking
17. Jackie
18. La La Land
19. Lav Diaz
20. Liev Schreiber
21. Lily-Rose Depp
22. Monica Bellucci
23. Naomi Watts
24. natalie portman
25. Nocturnal Animals
26. Orecchie
27. Pablo Larrain
28. Paradise
29. Producer
30. Rebecca Zlotowski
31. Red Carpet
32. Terrence Malick
33. The Woman Who Left
34. Tom Ford
35. Tribute
36. Venice Film Festival
37. Venice International Film Festival
38. Voyage of Time
39. Writer

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