



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

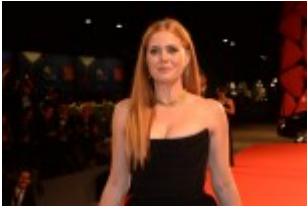
Description

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.

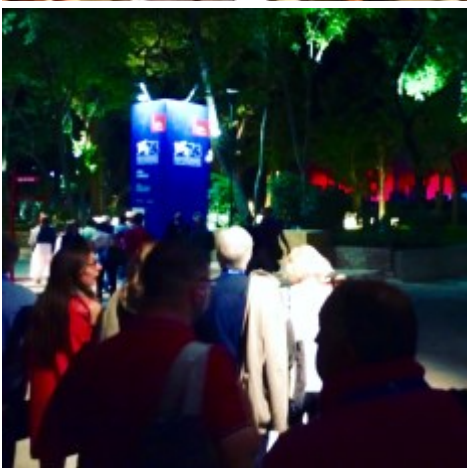
The Venice Film Festival is the oldest film festival in the world with a [history dating to 1932](#). This year was the 73rd edition showing little signs of its age. Steeped in glamor and tradition, the festival remains a testament to the cinematic arts with its viewing venues and its programming.



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 Cinema)



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 [Planetarium](#) from Director Rebecca Zlotowski.



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 it's 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.



Ms. Emma Stone at the La La

Land Press Conference on
August 31st, 2016, at the 73rd
Venice International Film
Festival. (Photo courtesy of
ASAC Images/Biennale
Cinema))



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.

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.

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

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