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A Euro-Atlantic twist at the 73rd Venice Film Festival

Description

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If the last edition of the Cannes Film Festival was dominated by important and consolidated â??cinema masters,â?• the red carpet at the 73rd Venice Film Festival will be taken over by marvelous authors.

Looking at the lineup recently presented in Rome, next yearâ??s festival could be defined as the best of **Alberto Barbera**, Veniceâ??s artistic director. If the key challenge is always to combine â??cinema dâ??auteurâ?• with the legitimate tastes of the general public, this â??Mostraâ?• will potentially bring a perfect balance to the lagoon city.

A closer look at the main competition, with six American films, reveals a strong comeback by the big American players in an edition that can be defined as Euro-Atlantic. On one side of the Atlantic Ocean, there is **Malick**, **Larrain**, **Villeneuve**, **Ford** and **Chazelle**. On the other side, there is **Konchalovsky**, **Wenders**, **Kusturica**, **Brize** and **Ozon**.

In between these two titanic armadas there will be a lonely Asian director, Filipino **Lav Diaz** (The Woman Who Left), making the 73rd with one of the smallest Asian representations in recent history. But next yearâ??s festival will not only lack Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Iranian filmmakers. Africa, with its vibrant Magreb cinematography, will be also out of the picture.

Compared to the recent Berlin and Cannes festivals, the Venice selection goes into another direction â?? one that prefers films based on literature (novels and theatrical plays) and history over socio-political stories. The worldâ??s immigration and economic crises have been forgotten, at least for now. Instead, there is a more intellectual approach based on the past as source of inspiration and detector of contemporary conflicts.

Venice has always been synonymous with innovation.

As for the film that will kick off the 73rd Venice International Film Festival, itâ??s â??La La Landâ?• by **Damien Chazelle** with **Ryan Gosling** and **Emma Stone**, as well as two documentaries, **Terrence**

Malickâ??s â??Voyage of Timeâ?• and â??Spira Mirabilisâ?• by Italian directing duo **Massimo Dâ??Anolfi** and **Martina Parenti**.



Meanwhile, among the futurist genres there will be 3D films â??Les Beaux Jours Dâ??Aranjuezâ?• by **Wim Wenders** and a UFO story â??Arrivalâ?• by **Denis Villeneuve**, another big risk taken by the festivalâ??s art director Barbera.

Another unmissable film will be the TV series episodes of â??The Young Popeâ?• by the Italian Oscar-winning director **Paolo Sorrentino** with a stellar cast starring **Jude Law**, **Diane Keaton** and **Cecile de France**. Italy will have several films in competition, such as â??Piumaâ?• (Feather) and â??Questi Giorniâ?• (These Days). The younger generations will be the protagonists of contemporary stories about the difficulties of growing up.




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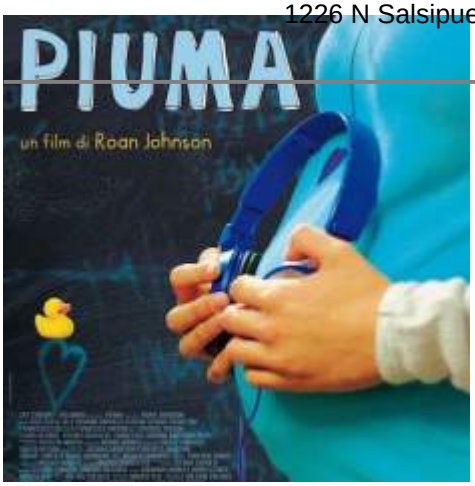


The â??Europeanâ?• surprise could come from â??Brimstone,â?• a western thriller film conceived, written and directed by the Dutch film-maker **Martin Koolhoven** and starring **Dakota Fanning**, **Guy Pearce**, **Kit Harington** and **Carice van Houten**. It is a triumphant tale of powerful womanhood and resistance against a violent past that refuses to fade. Just like at the Cannes this year, the red carpet in Venice is expected, for the joy of paparazzi and fans, to be one of the best ever, with a stunning **Natalie Portman** together with **Emma Stone**, **Alicia Vikander** and the Italian star **Monica Bellucci**.

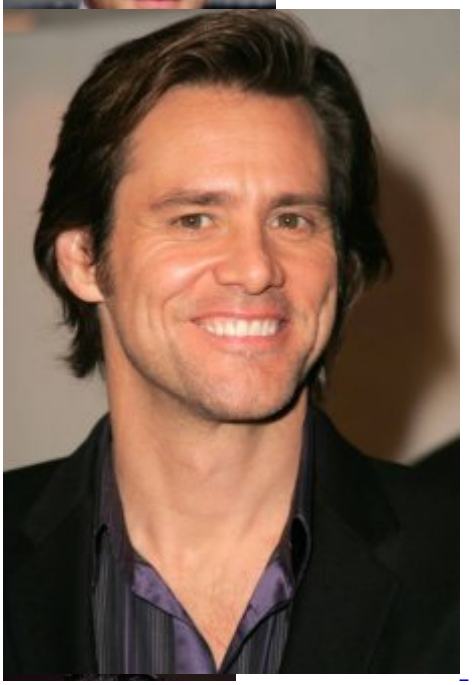


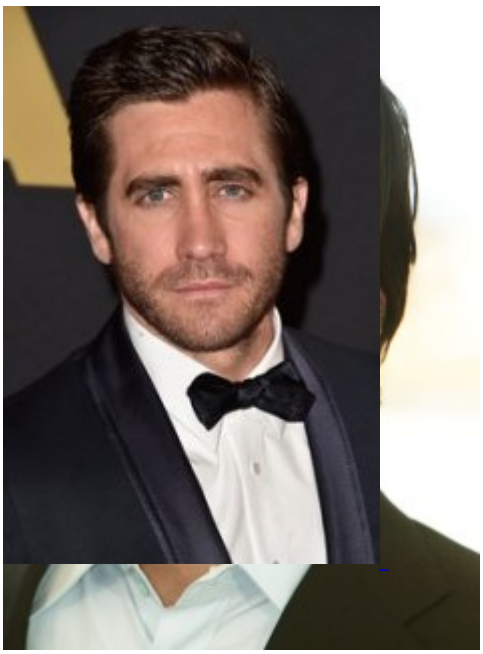




Just as impressive will be the â??battalionâ?• of male stars such as **Jude Law**, **Mel Gibson**, **Michael Fassbender**, **James Franco**, **Jim Carrey**, **Keanu Reeves**, **Jake Gyllenhaal**, **Denzel Washington** and **Chris Pratt**.









As for the international jury that will be awarding the golden lions, its president will be British director **Sam Mendes**. Also on the jury will be American artist, singer, director and writer **Laurie Anderson**, British actress **Gemma Arterton**, Italian magistrate, writer, playwright and screenwriter **Giancarlo De Cataldo**, German actress **Nina Hoss**, French actress **Chiara Mastroianni**, American director **Joshua Oppenheimer**, Venezuelan Golden Lion director **Lorenzo Vigas** and the Chinese actress, director and singer **Zhao Wei**.





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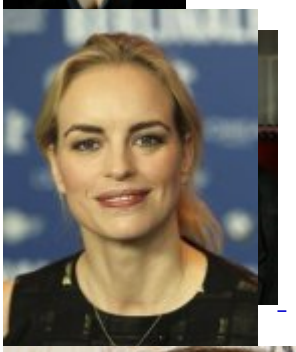



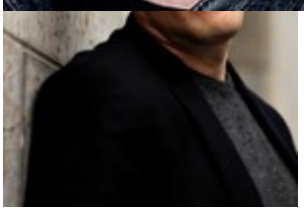

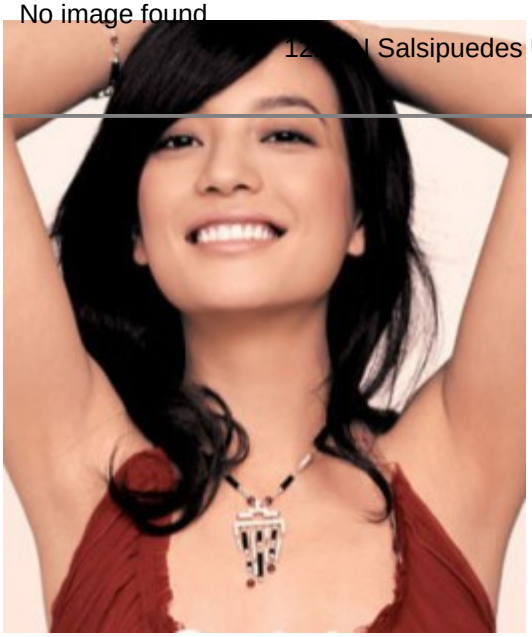

The Venice International Film Festival runs August 30 through September 10th, 2016. For more information on ticketing click here.



(Source material: https://www.neweurope.eu/article/euro-atlantic-twist-73rd-venice-film-festival/, http://www.labiennale.org)

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Date Created
August 8, 2016
Author
hollywoodglee