

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**THE TAORMINA ARTE SICILIA FOUNDATION AND NEWLY
APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRETT WISSMAN
ANNOUNCE PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE
69TH TAORMINA FILM FESTIVAL**

(Taormina, Sicily, Italy - May 9, 2023) - The Taormina Arte Sicilia Foundation announced today the lineup for the 69th edition of the Taormina Film Festival, taking place June 23-July 1, 2023 in Sicily. Programming details were shared by the festival's newly appointed Executive and Co-Artistic Director, Barrett Wissman, at the presentation of the Festival at the Ministry of Culture in Rome.

"We are thrilled to celebrate an incredible selection of films and talent at this year's Taormina Film Fest," said Barrett Wissman. "Thank you to my co-Artistic Director Beatrice Venezi and the Intendant of the Tao Arte Sicilia Foundation, Ester Bonafede, for making this all possible and for trusting me to help lead these remarkable efforts for the Fest. Even though my appointment was only a few weeks ago, we have managed to put together a world class program that will bring the Taormina Film Fest back to its glory days."

Highlights from the upcoming festival can be found below. Additional screenings and events will be announced in the coming weeks.

69th Taormina Film Festival Highlights:

- The Italian Premiere of ***Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny***, directed by James Mangold and featuring Harrison Ford, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Antonio Banderas, John Rhys-Davies, and Mads Mikkelsen with the cast in attendance.
- The World Premiere of ***The Worst Days***, directed by Edoardo Leo and Massimiliano Bruno, and featuring Edoardo Leo, Massimiliano Bruno, Anna Foglietta, Renato Carpentieri, Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Giuseppe Battiston, Neri Marcorè, Anna Ferzetti, Ricky Memphis, Claudia Pandolfi, Rocco Papaleo, Giovanni Storti, Massimo Wertmüller, Marco Bonini, Sara Baccarini, and Liliana Fiorelli.
- The World Premiere of ***Lo Sposo Indeciso***, directed by Giorgio Amato and featuring Gianmarco Tognazzi, Ilenia Pastorelli, Stefano Pesce, Francesco Pannofino, Morena Gentile, Giulia Gualano, Mimmo Ruggiero, Jenny De Nucci, Lucia Guzzardi, Martin Loeberto, Pietro Romano, Gilles Rocca, Ornella Muti, Claudia Gerini and Giorgio Colangeli.

- The Italian Premiere of ***Little Richard: I Am Everything***, a documentary about the life and career of the legendary musician, directed by Lisa Cortes.
- The Italian Premiere of ***A Thousand and One***, directed by A.V. Rockwell and featuring Teyana Taylor.
- The Italian Premiere of ***Jeanne du Barry***, directed by Maïwenn and featuring Johnny Depp.
- A special **Retrospective on the Career of the Director John Landis**, featuring films hand-selected by Landis himself that will be showcased throughout the week at the Palazzo dei Congressi in Taormina. This one-of-a-kind history of comedy in film will highlight Landis' own work, as well as films directed by friends and colleagues. Landis will also give presentations and master classes throughout the festival.
- A **Retrospective of actor Willem Dafoe and director Abel Ferrara** celebrating their career-long collaboration and friendship. Throughout the week, the Palazzo dei Congressi will offer showings of the seven films the duo made together including *New Rose Hotel* (1998), *Go Go Tales* (2007), *4:44 Last Day on Earth* (2011), *Pasolini* (2014), *Tommaso* (2019), *Siberia* (2020) and *Sportin' Life* (2020).
- **The 90th Anniversary Celebration of Warner Bros.**, featuring a selection of twenty five of the greatest films in their catalog over the last ninety years, and a documentary presentation of the history of the studio. The films will run throughout the week at the Palazzo dei Congressi.
- The week of festivities kicks off with the star-studded **Pavarotti Forever Opening Gala** at the Teatro Antico di Taormina, benefitting the Luciano Pavarotti Foundation. The evening will feature clips of concerts and documentaries over the years, with special guests and luminaries from both the operatic and pop world.
- The **Influential Shorts** gala evening, curated by Bella Thorne, featuring short films directed by celebrity talent and influencers including Thorne herself, Nina Dobrev, Khaby Lame, Jacqueline Fernandez, and many more to be announced.
- **A gala evening celebrating the renowned Nastri d'Argento awards**, known as the Italian Oscars, which were historically a cornerstone of the Taormina Film Festival. After several years away, the Nastri d'Argento awards return to Taormina this year with a special evening featuring a screening of *La stranezza (Strangeness)*, directed by Roberto Andò and featuring a cast comprised of Toni Servillo, Valentino Picone, and Salvatore Ficarra.

It was previously announced that arts and entertainment veteran **Barrett Wissman** has been appointed as the Taormina Film Fest's Executive and co-Artistic Director. Wissman is an avid entrepreneur, philanthropist and concert pianist, and for the last 20 years has been the Chairman of IMG Artists, the global leader in the performing and cultural arts entertainment business.

Held in the picturesque town of Taormina, the **Taormina Film Festival** is one of the most prestigious film festivals in Europe and Italy, attracting international filmmakers, actors, and film lovers from all over the world. The screenings take place in the stunning Ancient Theatre of Taormina.

For more information, please visit <https://taorminafilmfestival.com/>.

If you would like to request media credentials to cover the festival, please contact TFF@slate-pr.com.

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