

PRESS RELEASE

XXVI EUROMEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON CINEMA: A HISTORIC PRESENCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

More than ninety years after the first Venice International Film Festival in 1932, the International Council for Film and Television CICT ICFT renews its presence at the Lido.

September 6, 2024, Lido di Venezia. The CICT ICFT, the only *organisation faitière* of UNESCO dedicated to audiovisual communication, involving the most important film and television networks, as well as visionaries in multimedia communication, presents the **26th Euromediterranean Conference on Cinema** in the ambit of the 81st Venice International Film Festival. The occasion will also call for the celebration of the 36th 'Enrico Fulchignoni' Award, whose winner will be conferred with the **UNESCO Fellini Medal**.



Figure 1 - Villa Falconeri, inauguration of Istituto Internazionale del Cinema Educativo



Figure 2 – H.E. Vittorio Emanuele III during the inaugural ceremony of the Institute

The *International Council for Film and Television* (CICT ICFT) was established as the successor to the *International Educational Cinema Institute* – founded in 1928 at the initiative of the League of Nations and based in Rome under the leadership of Luciano De Feo as the world's only institution in the sector, eventually supporting the creation of the Venice Film Festival. It was later relaunched internationally by the United Nations during the UNESCO General Conference held in New Delhi in 1958, welcoming the project presented by Professor Mario Verdone to establish an International Institute for Cinema and Television. Subsequently entrusted to UNESCO, which still hosts it at its headquarters in Paris, throughout the years, CICT ICFT has affirmed itself on the international film scene as the **only federative organization or organisation faitière affiliated to UNESCO** in the field of audiovisual communication. It brings together under its umbrella the most important associations and federations engaged in communication and media, such as COPEAM, SIGNIS, FIPRESCI, EUROVISIONI, and CICAÉ. Throughout its decades of activity, CICT ICFT has promoted numerous initiatives, including the creation of the Escuela Internacional del Cine Latinoamericano in Cuba, Cinematheques in France, Italy, and Lebanon, as well as the organization of international festivals – in Cannes, Berlin, Moscow, Tirana, Ohrid, Zagreb, Beirut, Izmir, Khouribga, Gaza, Damascus, Cairo, Tripoli, Kalamata, Minorca, Hammamet, Marrakech, Antalya – and the awarding of important prizes, including the Lux Prize

and the Fulchignoni Prize, now in its 36th edition. In 1995, CICT ICFT contributed, under the auspices of UNESCO and with then Director-General Federico Mayor, to the creation of the **UNESCO Mediterranean Programme**, generating hundreds of initiatives, projects, and associations, some of which are still active today, such as the *Observatory for Audiovisual Communication in the Mediterranean and the World* (OCCAM), now affiliated with the United Nations, or the *International Council of Mediterranean Cinematographic Events* (MCM), which brings together all Mediterranean festivals.

Under the presidency of distinguished figures such as John Maddison (ISFA), Jean d'Arcy (RTF-UN), Mario Verdone (CIDALC), Enrico Fulchignoni (UNESCO), Gérard Bolla (UNESCO), Jean Rouch (CIFES), Daniel Van Espen (Signis), Jean-Michel Arnold (Camera), H.E Inoussa Ousseini (UNESCO), and now Pierpaolo Saporito (OCCAM), CICT ICFT is committed to reviving the historicity and prestige of the Association while also giving it a modern character, enabling it to adapt to an increasingly digital and globalized present with its inherent challenges.

And right on these issues is the main theme of the **26th Euromediterranean Conference on Cinema** that with the title "*Mobile cinema: a new koiné for young Euromediterraneans to foster peace and tolerance*" is scheduled for **September 6, 2024**, at **La Villa – Lungomare Guglielmo Marconi 56, 30126, Venezia Lido** – from 2:00 pm CEST, as

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part of the 81st Venice International Film Festival where CICT ICFT reaffirms itself as a significant cultural presence since the very first two editions in 1932 and 1934, in which it participated as a key coordinator under the guise of the Institute for Educational Cinema. This 26th edition will bring together eminent personalities, academics, and experts in the field in a global forum – or *Multaqa* – of experiences, testimonies, and debates at the highest institutional and cultural levels to identify new pathways that, enhanced by AI applications, can validate new socio-cultural expressions and scenarios. The occasion will also call for the celebration of the 36th edition of the "**Enrico Fulchignoni**" Award, dedicated to Enrico Fulchignoni, whose winner will be awarded with the **UNESCO Fellini Medal** in recognition to the embodiment of the values of peace and tolerance promoted by UNESCO.

SAVE THE DATE – 26th EUROMEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON CINEMA 6th September 2024 from 2 pm (CEST), La Villa, Lungomare Marconi 56, Venice Lido

Join us on 6th September 2024. **Register [here](#)**. Limited spots.

For further information, please visit www.cict-icft.org/euromed26.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

2:00 pm (CEST) – First session
The fate of the Mediterranean: the role of Institutions in the Next Generation Mediterranean community
<p>MAGDALENA LANDRY, <i>Director</i>, Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe with special focus on South-East Europe and the Mediterranean basin UNESCO, Venice, Poland H.E. ALBERTO BARACHINI, <i>Undersecretary of State</i>, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy H.E. Amb. NASSER KAMEL, <i>Secretary-General</i>, Union for the Mediterranean, Spain TOUSSAINT TIENDREBOGO, <i>Chief of the Diversity of expressions Entity</i>, UNESCO Culture Sector, France GENNARO MIGLIORE, <i>Director</i>, Centre of Global Studies, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Italy HOSSAM BADRAWI, <i>Chairman</i>, Nile Badrawi Foundation for Education & Development, Egypt BRANDO BENIFEI, <i>Member</i>, European Parliament, Italy GIACOMO MAZZONE, <i>Secretary General</i>, EUROVISIONI, Italy</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> PIERPAOLO SAPORITO, <i>President</i>, OCCAM – Observatory on Digital Communication; President a.l., CICT ICFT at UNESCO, Italy</p>
3:00 pm (CEST)
Proclamation of the winner of the XXXVI CICT ICFT UNESCO “Enrico Fulchignoni” Award, with the conferral of the “UNESCO Fellini Medal”
3:20 pm (CEST) - Second session
The new voices of the Mediterranean koiné
<p>KUJTIM ÇASHKU, <i>Director</i>, Akademia e Filmit dhe Multimedias Marubi, Albania PAOLA PARRI, <i>Deputy Secretary-General</i>, COPEAM, Italy ANA OPACIC, <i>Director</i>, Ohrid Beach Film Festival, North Macedonia SERGE MICHEL, <i>Vice-President</i>, CICT ICFT at UNESCO, UNICA, France ORR SIGOLI, <i>Artistic Director</i>, Jerusalem Film Festival, Israel AHMED BEDJAOU, <i>Artistic Director</i>, International Film Festival of Algiers, Algeria ALESSANDRO MANDELLI, <i>Founder & CEO</i>, Serially, Italy RIZWAN AHMAD, <i>Director</i>, Instructional Media Centre, MANUU, India AHMET BOYACIOGLU, <i>Artistic Director</i>, Festival on Wheels; <i>Chairman</i>, Ankara Cinema Association, Turkey CHRISTOPHER B. SMITHERS, <i>Secretary</i>, Christopher D. Smithers Foundation, USA</p> <p><i>Moderator</i> JASMINA BOJIC, <i>Founder and President</i>, UNAFF Travelling Film Festival, Stanford University, USA</p>
4:20 pm (CEST)
General Discussion & Final Declaration
4:45 pm (CEST)
Proclamation of the winner of the 13th edition of the “Ambassador of Hope” Award of the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation