



'Sole a Luna' Doc Fest: a dialogue though Images of the Mediterranean and of Islam

Traditions, cultural heritage, the will to learn by defeating the common stereotypes of Western beliefs. These are the principal themes of the documentaries participating in the contest at 'Sole e Luna' Doc Fest - International Documentary Film Festival on the Mediterranean and Islam. The project is supported by the Region of Sicily and will take place in Palermo from Oct.26 - Nov.1, 2006.

The Festival will feature over 100 documentaries from more than thirty countries, in addition to documentaries from the Doc Fest archives and from RAI (Italian National Television) These documentaries reveal a side of Islam that is not normally represented but too often left aside: a culture that carries not only religious values, but, also traditions and customs kept alive thanks to daily life that is inscribed in the heart of history.

Grouped in three different categories (Islam, the Mediterranean, and Oriental Art) the documentaries participating in the contest all carry a positive and shareable message. Even though they portray a strong and often idiosyncratic heritage, the films aim at taking part in what is hoped to be the formation of a different and near future.

When considering the delicate issues surrounding the Middle-Eastern interactions, or the West Bank problem, for instance, our hopes and expectations naturally lead to a peaceful co-existence amongst neighboring cultures, through the sharing of art and music as common grounds, beyond the limitations of more rigid political, religious, and historical beliefs.

In many of our films from Iran, women are presented with a dual aspiration towards emancipation, and at the same time towards family traditions. These films narrate stories of women that are strikingly similar, in their hopes and in dealing with life, to those of any European girl.

At the same time, the films participating in the festival are extremely different from one another, but all are hugely rich in cultural value, and in Mediterranean imagery. The olive tree, for example, symbolizes history, culture, and traditions of the Greeks, Romans and Arabs. There are also frequent contemplations of music, religious chants, traditional ceremonies, archeology, and ancient customs of Mediterranean rural life, which cumulatively reveal traces of a common religiosity and recurrent sacredness in everyday life.

This is a festival that from its very first edition, thanks to the quality and nature of its participating films, and thanks to the active support of such numerous European and Oriental countries, creates a safe haven of dialogue and comparison for those voices which otherwise would have remained unheard. In substance, this is an exhibition that emblemizes the importance of the necessity to discover Islamic culture in its totality, promoting a much-needed reciprocity and intermingling of cultures among the peoples of the Mediterranean.

Additional Information

Organization: Doc Fest, non-profit association

President: Carlo Fuscagni
Artistic Director: Rubino Rubini
Executive Director: Lucia Gotti Venturato
Press Office: Simona Di Giovannantonio

With the support of: Regione Siciliana

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With the high patronage of: The United Nation
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affair

With the active collaboration of: Members of Arab League
France, Spain, Greece and Malta

In collaboration with: Centro Islamico Culturale d'Italia
Institut du Monde Arabe
Istituto Cervantes

Sites: Palermo
Church of Santa Maria dello Spasimo
Loggiato di S. Bartolomeo

Period: 26th October – 1st November 2006

Ingresso: free

Press Conference: AKI - Adn Kronos International
21st June 2006 at 11.00
Palazzo dell'Informazione
Piazza Mastai, 9 Roma

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