



UNIONE EUROPEA



## INAUGURAL CINEMA FROM PUGLIA INITIATIVE LANDS IN LOS ANGELES

ON THURSDAY, MAY 30th, 2024 AT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF LOS ANGELES, 5 SHORT FILMS DIRECTED BY TALENTED DIRECTORS from across the PUGLIA region WILL BE SCREENED AS PART OF A BROADER WEEKLONG INITIATIVE. THIS MARKS THE FIRST EVER COLLABORATION BETWEEN NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES (NFMLA), THE APULIA FILM COMMISSION, AND PUGLIAPROMOZIONE.

This first-of-its-kind initiative is an immersive and intensive week-long journey delving into the essence of American cinema, covering a comprehensive array of topics and insights. The program is poised to launch new pathways for fostering cross-cultural entertainment industry connectivity and storytelling, linking the captivating region of Puglia to the vibrant city of Los Angeles, all made possible through the cinematic artistry of Puglia's emerging moviemakers.

Throughout the duration of program, kicking off on May 28th, 2024, five carefully selected Puglia filmmakers will participate in exclusive meetings with Los Angeles based media professionals and creatives at studios, major streaming companies, agencies and more, participate in live curated panels related to topics of diverse, universal feature filmmaking, join sessions and interviews with prestigious entertainment journalists within the American film industry and more.

The program runs through June 2nd and will include two public screenings of the Pugliese filmmakers latest short films, presented as part of the prestigious NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA) Monthly Film Festival. The first program will be held on Thursday, May 30th, 2024, beginning at 5 PM at the Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles in Westwood, featuring "San Vitu Rock" by Fausto Romano, "Albertine, where are you?" by Maria Guidone, "La Pescatora" by Lucia Loré, "Super Jesus" by Vito Palumbo, and "Lea e il Fenicottero" by Antonio De Palo.

These films were selected within the "InFocus: Puglia Cinema" program at the NFMLA Monthly Film Festival, with the patronage of the Italian Consulate of Los Angeles. Curated from diverse genres and locales, each of the selected shorts bears a unique and personal stylistic imprint, capturing the essence of Puglia through their varied filming locations. A true variety of stories that tell of a land that is constantly evolving, but never forgets its roots. The final screening is a private industry-only evening that will take place on May 31st, 2024 at NeueHouse Hollywood, one of Los Angeles' most prominent entertainment gathering spaces and a celebrated landmark which occupies the original CBS Studios.

Initiated and led by Silvia Bizio, in collaboration with NFMLA Executive Director Larry Laboe, NFMLA Programming Director Bojana Sandic who is overseeing artistic direction and Simone Di Cori who is managing general organization, this project has garnered enthusiastic support and engagement from key figures such as Anna Maria Tosto, President of Apulia Film Commission, Antonio Parente, Director of Apulia Film Commission, and Luca Scandale, Director of PugliaPromozione. This groundbreaking collaboration between NFMLA, Apulia Film Commission, and PugliaPromozione marks a significant milestone in fostering artistic exchange and cinematic exploration.

"Puglia is a land of Cinema: not only for the spectacular locations appreciated worldwide today, but also because it is the cradle of young talents who increasingly find opportunities to express themselves as a result of the long-term support for cinema provided by the Region," says Anna Maria Tosto, president of Apulia Film Commission.

Presenting the works of Pugliese filmmakers in Hollywood is a challenge to be embraced. Their skills and imagination will be the poetic vehicle bringing the beauties, history, and languages of our land onto the world stage. Therefore, the goal of this project curated by NFMLA will give great visibility to the region of Puglia as well as provide the filmmakers an incredible opportunity to expand their network in the entertainment capital of the world.

"Pugliese Cinema in Hollywood" is a project carried out by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, Regione Puglia, and PugliaPromozione, funded by resources from the POC Puglia 2014/2020, Axis VI, Action 6.8.

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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