Program for the 72nd Locarno Film Festival announced

The official program of the 72nd edition of the Locarno Film Festival was announced at a press conference today, Wednesday 17 July. Also announced were the Leopard Club Award to Hilary Swank, the Vision Award Ticinomoda to Claire Atherton, the Premio Utopía to enrico ghezzi and the Premio Cinema Ticino to Fulvio Bernasconi. The 72nd edition was presented by Locarno’s new artistic director Lili Hinstin.

Download the complete program.

The Leopard Club Award of the 72nd Locarno Film Festival will pay tribute to a great performer of real life. Hilary Swank, a tenacious actress and woman, who can carry the weight of a script both on set and in everyday life, will be the major guest of the night of August 9, when she will receive the Leopard Club Award in Piazza Grande. Having created unforgettable performances, molded onto a body that can shape the psyche, Hilary Swank can relate to scripts that recount lives on the rise and fragile themes upon which lies the weight of entire lives. The Locarno tribute to Hilary Swank includes screenings of Kimberly Peirce’s Boys Don’t Cry (1999) and Clint Eastwood’s Million Dollar Baby (2004), the two films that earned her the Best Actress Oscar. The Festival audience will also have the chance to meet her on Saturday, August 10.

The members for the official juries were also announced, as was the tribute to Bruno Ganz, for which Petros Markaris, screenwriter of Mia aionióità kai mia mera (Eternity and a Day, 1998), will be present.

Guests at Locarno will include:

Competitive sidebars

Piazza Grande
19 full-length, including 2 short films, 6 Crazy Midnight Films and in total 11 world premieres, will be screened in Piazza Grande, the open-air theater packed every night by an audience of up to 8,000.

Concorso internazionale
17 full-length features, including 14 as world premieres, compete for the Pardo d’oro.

Concorso Cineasti del presente
The Locarno competition dedicated to discovery includes 16 first, second or third features, with 15 as world premieres.

Moving Ahead
The sidebar that explores the edges of cinema, investigating experimental forms of narration and innovations in filmic language, from this year pays tribute to director Jonas Mekas and includes 6 full-length and 10 short features, with 15 as world premieres.

Pardi di domani
Two competitions, one reserved for Swiss short films and a second international section, with 38 world premieres.

Non-competitive sidebars

Fuori Concorso
An open space for work by master filmmakers and directors of international stature.

Histoire(s) du cinéma
Film history through the lens of the protagonists of Locarno72.

Retrospettiva
This year’s retrospective Black Light includes 45 films, including 38 full-length features.

Open Doors
This year the sidebar that promotes and fosters independent filmmaking in the global South and East begins a new three-year cycle on Southeast Asia and Mongolia.

Parallel Sections

Semaine de la critique

Panorama Suisse

The 72nd Locarno Film Festival will take place from 7 to 17 August 2019.

ww.locarnofestival.ch