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TORINO  
FILM FESTIVAL

39<sup>th</sup> Torino Film Festival (November 26 – December 4, 2021)

## ADVANCE NEWS ABOUT THE 39<sup>th</sup> TFF

*The director Ildikó Enyedi will be the president of the jury,  
the patroness will be the actress Emanuela Fanelli.*

*A complete retrospective will be dedicated to Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige*

The award-winning Hungarian director **Ildikó Enyedi** will chair the International Jury of the Feature Film and the International Short Film competitions that will assign the festival's major awards. Her great experience, the many awards she has received over the course of her long career, and her special artistic sensitivity make her particularly well qualified for an invaluable analysis of the works by new filmmakers that the festival has chosen.

Ildikó Enyedi debuted as a visual artist and her first film, *My Twentieth Century* (1989), immediately gained international renown, winning the Caméra D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Her extraordinary and unique cinema crosses the boundary between reality and thought with freedom and imagination, offering moving portraits of rare compassionate depth. Her movies have participated at every international festival and won important awards. In 2017, *On Body and Soul* won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and was nominated for an Oscar. Her most recent film, *The Story of My Wife*, is based on the same-titled novel by Milán Füst – an international co-production starring Léa Seydoux, Gijs Naber, Louis Garrel, Jasmine Trinca, and Sergio Rubini – and will be presented in competition at the upcoming Cannes Film Festival.

*"Film festivals are complex enterprises. But good film festivals are like people - they have a complex personality. You can relate to them as to a person and visiting a festival becomes a unique, personal experience. For a long time I watched from afar and longed to meet this intriguing person, bold and noble in his choices, proud about its values and humble towards the filmmakers – the Torino International Film Festival. Dear TFF, I am glad that we can meet finally! I am truly honored that you gave me the task of the jury president. I promise to serve you and the competing filmmakers at my best."*

The patroness of the festival will be **Emanuela Fanelli**, a talented and multi-faceted actress and author. Her intelligence, flair, and elegance will light up the festival's inaugural and closing ceremonies, as well as a few special moments.

The pathway of research and precise artistic determination that Emanuela Fanelli has constructed through her bold choices is particularly in line with the independent and free vocation of the movies and filmmakers that participate at Turin's festival. Over the years, her ability to pinpoint an authorial and original line in every artistic field she has explored (film, theatre, TV, radio, the web) has allowed her to construct strong, iconic, and complex characters who offer unusual outlooks on current topics of contemporary society and the role of artists. Her recent movies include her starring role in *Siccità*, Paolo Virzi's most recent film, soon to be released.

*"The past year and a half has been hard on everybody, on a human and a professional level. Cinema, theatre, show business in general and its workers are among the hardest struck and most affected from many points of view, not least psychologically. The Director of the Torino Film Festival probably had a nervous breakdown and that's why he chose me to be the patroness of this year's festival. Although I am very happy and honored, I hope he'll get better soon and become his usual, carefree and fun-loving self once again."*

The festival will dedicate a retrospective to **Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige**, the two filmmakers and artists from Lebanon who were among the stars of the 2021 Berlinale with *Memory Box*, a magnificent composition of images, sounds, and words that restores human dignity to the rubble of Lebanon's civil war.

At the center of the international scene for the past twenty years as two of the most cutting-edge figures in the reflection on the relationship between collective History and individual stories, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil

Joreige will be the focus of a complete retrospective, curated by **Massimo Causo**, that, besides the Italian premiere of *Memory Box* (distributed by Movies Inspired), will present their entire opus, from their debut film *Around the pink house* (1999) to *A Perfect Day* (2005), *Khiam 2000-2007* (2008), *Je veux voir* (2008), and *The Lebanese Rocket Society* (2012), as well as all of their short films, an integral part of their pathway. They have always sought to cross the physical and ideal space of Lebanon, turning their films into an act of resistance of memory against the oblivion to which places, people, and events are condemned. Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige will be present in Turin to accompany their retrospective with a Masterclass.

"As filmmakers and artists, we create without necessarily having the audience in mind, but we create for the other, with the hope of an encounter, in the wish and need of a poetic and political sharing, of a common questioning. A retrospective like the one offered by Torino is a moment where this sharing can take place fully in a territory of art and cinema. We can't wait!"

## BIO

Born in Budapest, **Ildikó Enyedi** began her career as a conceptual and multimedia artist. She emerged on the international film scene winning the Cannes' Camera d'Or for her feature debut, *Az én XX. Századom* (My Twentieth Century), among the top 10 films of 1989, according to The New York Times and one of the best 12 Hungarian films of all time. Her second feature, *Bűvös vadász* (The Magic Hunter), 1994, was presented in main competition at Venice Film Festival while *Simon mágus* (Simon the Magician) was in competition at Locarno International Film Festival, 1999. She worked with HBO Europe as well and won best TV director of the year. In 2017 her *Testről és lélekről* (About Body and Soul) won the Golden Bear and was nominated for an Oscar as best foreign film. After many years of teaching activity at the University of Theatre and Film Arts (SZFE) in Budapest Ildikó Enyedi resigned in vehement protest against the decision by Viktor Orbán's government to place its own supporters at the university. Ildikó Enyedi is one of the founders of the European Cross Media Academy and the European Film Academy and member also of the American Film Academy. Since the beginning of her career, she has received more than 40 awards. Her new film, *The Story of My Wife*, an international production with Inforg-M&M Film, Komplizen Film, Pyramide Productions, Palosanto Films and Rai Cinema, based on the homonymous novel by Milán Füst (published in Italian by Adelphi in 2002) - will premiere in Cannes Competition.

**Emanuela Fanelli** was born in Rome and began acting onstage as an adolescent. She debuted in film in 2015 in *Non essere cattivo* (Don't Be Bad) by Claudio Caligari and continued her film career in movies by Massimiliano Bruno, Laura Morante, Augusto Fornari, and Claudio Bonivento. In 2016, she starred in the TV series *Dov'è Mario?* with Corrado Guzzanti. Since 2016, she has played various characters in Lillo & Greg's radio program *610* on Rai Radio 2. For television, she performed two monologues on *La tv delle ragazze - Gli Stati Generali* (2018) and *Stati Generali* (2020), hosted by Serena Dandini (Rai3). On Rai2, she was one of the stars of Giovanni Benincasa's program *Battute?* (2019) and in 2020 and 2021, always with Benincasa, she collaborated as a host, actress, and author on the program *Una pezza di Lundini*, with Valerio Lundini. In late 2019, she was the star of the video clip *Immigrato*, a song by Checco Zalone that was written for the release of the movie *Tolo Tolo*. She participated at the Sanremo Music Festival in 2021 as a guest at the third evening dedicated to covers. She has won a series of awards, including a special mention for best actress and best monologue at the festival Ciak, si Roma! (the jury members were Carlo Verdone, Daniele Luchetti, and Lina Wertmüller) and best actress at the 48h Film Project for her role in the short *Un film d'amore*. She is one of the stars of Paolo Virzì's new feature film *Siccià*, soon to be released and produced by Wildside and Vision Distribution.

**Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige** are filmmakers and artists from Lebanon who, since the late 1990s, integrate photographs, videos, performances, installations, sculptures, and movies to create elaborations and representations that reflect on the History, past experiences, and consciousness of their country and beyond, and of populations devastated by war.

As filmmakers, they have directed many movies that alternate – and often overlap – documentaries and fiction films, all of which have been crowned with success at the major international festivals. Their debut film, *Around the Pink House* (Al Bayt el Zaher, 1999), was followed by *The Lost Film* (Al Film Al Makfoud, 2003), *A Perfect Day* (Yawmon Akhar, 2005), the FIPRESCI Prize at Locarno), *Khiam 2000-2007* (2008), *Je veux voir* (2008, Official Selection at Cannes), *The Lebanese Rocket Society: The Strange Tale of The Lebanese Space Race* (2012), *ISMIRNA* (2016), and their recent movie *Memory Box* (2021), in Competition at the Berlinale. As artists, they have further developed the topic of history kept secret, construction of imaginaries and the invisible and latent traces, making it the focus of exhibits, installations, and performances, such as *Circle of Confusion* (1997), *Lasting Images* (2003), *Wonder Beirut* (2009), *SCAMS* (2014), and *Unconformities* (2017), which have been featured in major museums worldwide. The authors of numerous publications, they have often been invited to give lectures and performances in institutions in Lebanon and Europe. They are the co-founders (with Georges Schoucair) of the production company About Productions and are members of the Metropolis Art Cinema Association and Cinemathèque Beirut.

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