

NOIR AMONG THE BEATLES, DARIO ARGENTO, SCOTT TUROW AND... NUMBER 17

Edition number 17 (considered an unlucky number in Italy) of the **COURMAYEUR NOIR IN FESTIVAL** will take place at the foot of Mont Blanc from December 4-10. “We challenge superstition in the name of Hitchcock, who rose to fame with the masterpiece thriller *Number 17*,” say festival directors Emanuela Cascia, Marina Fabbri and Giorgio Gosetti, “with a program full of surprises, fun, social commitment and great premieres of books, films and personalities that aims to live up to the compliment we received from *Variety*, which included us among the world’s 50 un-missable festivals, and unique in our field, in excellent company with just three other Italian festivals.”

For our 17th edition, we are holding three competitions from which this year’s winners will be chosen: of feature films, a selection of 13 Italian premieres and films from which a jury presided over by **Dario Argento** will award the three official prizes; documentaries, with six “films on the real” that offer powerfully emotional stories full of twists; and the best Italian noir novel of the year (the Giorgio Scerbanenco – La Stampa Award), which on this occasion will be chosen by a jury made up of the best Italian writers of the genre.

The festival will also present two career awards: the “Super Scerbanenco,” in honor of the prize’s 15th edition, and the Raymond Chandler Award, which this year goes to **Scott Turow**, creator of the modern legal thriller.

The festival’s special guests this year will be the **Beatles** with the screening of the restored print of *Help* (the “Fab Four’s” most surreal journey into the impossible) on the occasion of the prestigious exhibit that will be inaugurated in Aosta on December 7, in collaboration with Noir.

The highly anticipated program teeming with first films, popular actors, great stories and numerous international premieres includes **Hitman** by Xavier Gens, featuring rising star Timothy Olyphant (the bad guy from *Live Free or Die Hard*), which will open the official selection on December 4; David Slade’s **30 Days of Night**, the US box office hit that pits Josh Hartnett against a band of murderous vampires in the blinding white of the Great North; and **Diary of the Dead** by George A. Romero, who returns with the fifth installment of the zombie saga (and the zeal of a debut filmmaker).



Also of note are Italian competition title **La velocità della luce (The Speed of Light)** by Andrea Papini, the spectacular MINI Noir premieres (**Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium** and animation **Bee Movie**) and documentaries such as **Terror's Advocate** by Barbet Schroeder.

The many literary personalities that will leave their indelible mark on this edition include **Jason Goodwin**, the sophisticated crime novelist who after the success of *The Janissary Tree* returns to his beloved Istanbul, and **Jeff Lindsay**, the highly popular author of *Dearly Devoted Dexter*, on whose work is based the TV series *Dexter*, which airs on Fox Crime and whose entire first season will be presented at Courmayeur in a marathon theatrical screening. And from Italy, the "magnificent five" of the **Giorgio Scerbanenco - La Stampa Award** and the **ColoradoNoir "Tribe,"** writers and directors involved in the upcoming projects of **Noir Italia**.

There are two themes this year: "**Chi ha ucciso la giustizia?**" ("**Who killed justice?**"), on the legal emergency in our country's headlines in the year in which the moratorium on the death penalty put forth by Italy at the United Nations Assembly expires. Gherardo Colombo and Scott Turow will discuss the topic with Gaetano Savatteri at the festival. A second encounter is dedicated to the fight against eco-crimes, which shifts from political and social spheres to include the editorial world as well, in the unique event "**Un noir contro l'ecocriminalità**" ("**Noir against eco-criminality**") a discussion between writers and environmental activists in collaboration with publishing company VerdeNero.

This year's guest of honor is **Scott Turow**. Born in 1949 in Chicago, a leading figure in celebrated trials against the corruption in his city's Attorney General's office, and internationally acclaimed for his novel *Presumed Innocent* (1987), which laid the foundations of the modern legal thriller, Turow is one of the greatest exponents of socially engaged American literature and in recent years has been at the frontlines of campaigns against the death penalty in the United States, as he relates in his book *Ultimate Punishment*. In Courmayeur he will receive the **Raymond Chandler Award**, continuing a tradition that in past years has awarded writers such as John le Carré, John Grisham and Elmore Leonard.

The increasingly successful **MINI Noir**, now in its fourth edition, will as of this year be open to adolescents as well, with encounters, workshops, premieres and screenings held in collaboration with the IED (European Institute of Design) of Milan. New events this year include an encounter for older youths, **Non aprite quelle porte**, with guest Vittoria Cabello (Very



Victoria), and a screening of **The Addams Family**, the biting black comedy by Barry Sonnenfeld that, like the festival, is celebrating its 17th anniversary.

Young people will be the true protagonists of the entire festival this year. In collaboration with the DAMS School of Turin, a group of university students will participate in the tribute to Turow as well as the other Noir programs. And, like every year, there will be a Workshop for Young European Critics (from Belgium, France and Italy), organized by the “Il Cinematografo” cultural association with support from the Council of Education and Culture of the Autonomous Region of Valle d’Aosta.

The **Courmayeur Noir in Festival** is run by Studio Cooperativa and promoted by the City of Courmayeur, the Autonomous Region of Valle d’Aosta and Aiat Monte Bianco, with support from the General Direction of Cinema and a contribution from **MINI** (the main sponsor of MINI Noir), **Gruppo Napapijri** (sponsor of the best performance award and the festival’s literary events) and the **Casino de la Vallée** (with whom we have organized a special program in Saint Vincent and the marathon of the TV series **Dexter**). The festival’s media partner is thematic channel **Fox Crime**, which sponsors the Audience Award and helped organize the **TV Noir** section, while the television offerings of MINI Noir come from the Cartoon Network.

This year’s poster was designed by **Antonello Silverini**.

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OFFICIAL SELECTION

Eight first films, seven second films and 12 international and European premieres make up the ambitious mosaic of this year's official selection. Alongside top international hits (*30 Days of Night*, *Bee Movie*), renowned directors (George A. Romero, Baltasar Kormákur) and a strong line-up of Anglo-Saxon films, the Courmayeur Noir in Festival is traditionally also a place for discoveries and the innovative in all its sections. The two competitions (feature film and documentary) are integrated with the new offerings of MINI Noir, out-of-competition titles and two special tributes: to the "Fab Four" (with the restored print of *Help*, kindly loaned to us by EMI) and the anniversary of *The Addams Family*.

COMPETITION

THE AIR I BREATHE

First film

by Jieho Lee

with Kevin Bacon, Brendan Fraser, Andy Garcia, Julie Delpy, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Emile Hirsch, Forest Whitaker

with: NALA Films

Italian distributor: CDI

USA, 2007, 97'

DER ANDERE JUNGE (The Other Boy)

First film

by Volker Einrauch

with Andrea Sawatzki, Barbara Auer, Peter Lohmeyer, Christian Berkel, Willi Gerk

with: Josefine-Filmproduktion

Germany, 2007, 95'

EL ASALTANTE (The Mugger)

First film

by Pablo Fendrik

with Arturo Goetz, Barbara Lombardo, Maya Lesca

Production company: Magmacine

International distributor: Latinofusion

Argentina, 2007, 67'

FILM NOIR

by D. Jud Jones, Risto Topaloski
with Bettina Devin, Kristina Negrete, Victoria O'Toole
Production company: EasyE Films
International distributor: Wild Bunch
USA, 2007, 97'

FLAWLESS

by Michael Radford
with Demi Moore, Michael Caine, Lambert Wilson
Production company: Future Films
Italian distributor: Mediafilm
UK, 2007, 108'

HITMAN

by Xavier Gens
with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko, Ulrich Thomsen
Production company: EuropaCorp.
Italian distributor: Twentieth Century-Fox Italia
France/USA, 2007, 93'

JOSHUA

by George Ratliff
with Sam Rockwell, Jacob Kogan, Vera Farmiga
Production company: ATO Pictures
Italian distributor: Twentieth Century Fox Italia
USA, 2007, 105'

MYRIN - JAR CITY

by Baltasar Kormákur
with Ingvar Eggert Sigursson, Ágústa Eva Erlendsdóttir, Björn Hlynur Haraldsson
Production company: Blueeyes Productions
International distributor: Trust Film Sales APS
Iceland/Germany, 2007, 94'

Iceland's Oscar submission for the Best Foreign Language Film nomination



LA VELOCITA' DELLA LUCE

by Andrea Papini

with Patrick Bauchau, Peppino Mazzotta, Beatrice Orlandini

Production company: A.L.B.A. Produzioni

Italy, 2007, 89'

VOUS ÊTES DE LA POLICE?

by Romuald Beugnon

with Jean Pierre Cassel, Micheline Presle, Jean-Claude Brialy

Production company: Bizibi Productions

France, 2007, 94'

First film

OUT OF COMPETITION

Special Event: DOCNOIR

L'AVOCAT DE LA TERREUR

by Barbet Schroeder

France, 2007, 135'

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

by David Slade

with Josh Hartnett, Melissa George, Danny Huston, Ben Foster, Mark Boone Junior

Production company: Ghost House Productions, Columbia Pictures, Dark Horse Entertainment

Italian distributor: Medusa

New Zealand/USA, 2007, 113'

BOCCA DI ROSA

by Daniele Costantini

with Fausto Paravidino, Massimo Popolizio, Donatella Finocchiaro, Filippo Nigro, Claudia Zanella, Tosca d'Aquino, Agostina Belli

Production company: Goodtime srl. in collaboration with RAI Cinema

Italian distributor: Istituto Luce

Italy, 2007, 105'

DIARY OF THE DEAD

by George A. Romero

with Michelle Morgan, Joshua Close, Shawn Roberts, Amy Lalonde

Production company: Artfire Films, Romero-Grunwald Productions

Italian distributor: Minerva Pictures

USA, 2007, 95'

Special Event: The Beatles

HELP!

by Richard Lester

with Ringo Starr, John Lennon, George Harrison, Paul McCartney

Production company: Subafilms, Walter Shenson Films

Italian distributor: Apple Corps Ltd.

UK, 1965, 100'



SPECIAL SHORT FILMS

GUINEA PIG

by Antonello De Leo

with Fiona May, Henry Garrett, David Brandon

Production company: Dax Films

Italy, 16'40''

LIVER

by Federico Greco

with Ottaviano Blich

Italy, 2007, 17'



COURMAYEUR
NOIR
IN FESTIVAL

MINI NOIR

BEE MOVIE

by Steve Hickner and Simon J. Smith
USA, 2007, 91'

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

by Zach Helm
Con Dustin Hoffman, Nathalie Portman, Jason Bateman
USA 2007, 94'

First film

THE GRIM ADVENTURES OF BILLY & MANDY **Wrath of the Spider Queen**

by Maxwell Atoms
USA, 2007, 45'

Special Event

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

by Barry Sonnenfeld
USA, 1991, 99'

THE ADDAMS FAMILY TV series

by Arthur Hiller
USA, 1964, 26'

DOCNOIR COMPETITION

CARTE GHERMEZ (The Red Card)

by Mahnaz Afzali
Iran, 2006/2007, 74'

First film

THE DICTATOR HUNTER

by Klaartje Quirijns
Holland, 2007, 75'

HAMISHE BARAYE AZADI DIR AST (It's Always Late for Freedom)

by Merhdad Oskouei
Iran, 2007, 53'

A LAWYER WALKS INTO A BAR...

by Eric Chaikin
USA, 2007, 93'

ROL

by Nicolò Bongiorno
Italy, 2007, 64'

A VERY BRITISH GANGSTER

by Donal MacIntyre
UK, 2006, 97'

First film

THE 2007 RAYMOND CHANDLER AWARD TO SCOTT TUROW

The Raymond Chandler Award was founded in 1986 with support from the Raymond Chandler Foundation and pays homage to a master of the mystery genre – in all its forms. To a writer capable of capturing the reality of our times, an artist who has an in-depth knowledge of the various facets of the world in which we live and who knows how to describe the contradictions and paradoxes of characters and society, as Raymond Chandler did in his work. Chandler's mysteries transcended the literary genre of which they are officially a part, to fully enter the history of modern literature. This is why the prize has traditionally gone to writers with vastly differing styles, including Graham Greene, Leonardo Sciascia, J. G. Ballard, Manuel Vasquez Montalban, Fredrick Forsyth, P.D. James, Osvaldo Soriano, John le Carré and John Grisham.

*The winners, who receive a silver reproduction of the Brasher Doubloon, the coin at the heart of Chandler's *The High Window* (1943), have always honored the festival with their presence, thus allowing us to meet and speak in-depth with them about their work and about noir literature in general.*

SCOTT TUROW

Considered the inventor of the legal thriller, Scott Turow is a successful writer-lawyer who often works pro bono on the most difficult legal cases; a practicing Democrat; a highly impassioned memorialist who has written superbly on WWII; and a crime author who always poses at the heart of his novels a moral nucleus, a powerful question that regards us all: personal responsibility, the right to judge, the ideas of innocence and guilt. Lastly, he is a polemicist who, both through fiction (*Reversible Errors*) and essays (*Ultimate Punishment*) fights on the frontlines against the death penalty with an extraordinary wealth of argumentation, a depth of discussion and a broad dialectic unequalled in contemporary American literature.

A Chicago native, Turow (1949) graduated from Amherst College in 1970, the same year he received the Edith Mirrielees Fellowship to the Stanford University Creative Writing Center, which he attended until 1972. He taught creative writing at Stanford until 1975, when he entered Harvard Law School, graduating with honors in 1978. From 1978-86, while he was Assistant U.S. Attorney in Chicago, he was lead government counsel in a number of trials, including against Attorney General William J. Scott, accused of tax fraud.

PRESUMED INNOCENT (1987) placed him on best-seller lists around the world and was made into a motion picture directed by Alan J. Pakula and starring Harrison Ford. His books REVERSIBLE ERRORS and THE BURDEN OF PROOF were adapted into television films, both directed by Mike Robe, while Dustin Hoffman has bought the rights to PERSONAL LESIONS with the goal of turning



it into his directorial debut feature. His books include: ONE L (1977), THE BURDEN OF PROOF (1990), PLEADING GUILTY (1993), THE LAWS OF OUR FATHERS (1997), PERSONAL INJURIES (2000) and, the latest, LIMITATIONS (2007). His work has been translated into over 25 languages and has sold over 25 million copies worldwide.

A LAWYER AT THE MOVIES: TUROW'S FILM SELECTION FOR COURMAYEUR

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION by Billy Wilder (116', USA, 1957)

TWELVE ANGRY MEN by Sidney Lumet (93', USA, 1957)

PRESUMED INNOCENT by Alan J. Pakula (127', USA, 1990)

THE BURDEN OF PROOF by Mike Robe (174', USA, 1992)

REVERSIBLE ERRORS by Mike Robe (172', USA, 2004)

DEADLINE by Katy Chevigny and Kirsten Johnson (90', USA, 2004)

THE WRITERS OF THE 2007 COURMAYEUR NOIR IN FESTIVAL

Wednesday December 5

SERGE QUADRUPPANI

Au fond de l'oeil du chat

After having worked various jobs, Quadruppani began writing and translating novels at the age of 30, going on to become one of the leading figures of French literature. He has written various essays and novels, the latter mostly crime stories. He has translated into French noir literature from some of the most renowned authors from Italy (including Andrea Camilleri, Marcello Fois and Valerio Evangelisti) and beyond (Stephen King and Philip K. Dick). Tense, brimming with tender and odd characters, his latest novel *Au fond de l'oeil du chat* delves into the presence of and fascination with one of the most constant forces of human history: cruelty.

Thursday December 6

BIAGIO PROIETTI

Io sono la prova

Proietti's work has covered the entire range of noir genre. For cinema, he wrote, among others, the screenplay to 1970's *La morte risale a ieri sera*, directed by Duccio Tessari and based on *I milanesi ammazzano il sabato* by Giorgio Scerbanenco. He worked for radio and television, in the 70s heyday of RAI's crime programs. He made his literary debut in 2005 with *Una vita sprecata*. At Courmayeur he will present *Io sono la prova*, his second novel featuring Marco Dori, a professor recently cleared of a crime committed by one of his female students yet still unable to put the past behind him.

Thursday December 6

SOPHIE HANNAH

Little Face

Young, eclectic British poet-writer Hannah has penned her first psychological noir novel. In England, *Little Face* became the country's best-selling crime novel just days after its publication, thanks to readers' word-of-mouth, and in one month had sold 20,000 copies. A young mother claims her newborn baby has been switched by another in its crib yet no one will believe her in this story that explores the secrets and lies hidden behind seemingly perfect lives. Hannah will present the book at Courmayeur, which will be out in Italian bookstores in January 2008.



Thursday December 6

MICHAEL GREGORIO

Days of Atonement

Michael Gregorio is the pen name of husband and wife Daniela De Gregorio and Michael Jacob, who live and work in Spoleto. Authors of *Critique of Criminal Reason*, they will be in Courmayeur to present their second novel centering on attorney Hanno Stiffeniis. Against the backdrop of a gothic Prussia invaded by France in the early 1800s, Stiffeniis and his wife Helena investigate the deaths of three children, for which the Jewish community has been accused.

Thursday December 6

ÅSA LARSSON

The Blood Spilt

Born in Kiruna, Larsson (1966) came to writing accidentally and the sudden success of her first novel *Sunstorm* (winner of the 2003 Swedish Academy Award) surprised her most of all. The book was adapted into the recent film starring ex-Bond girl Izabella Skorupco and is currently topping the Swedish box office charts. In Courmayeur she will present her second successful novel centered on lawyer Rebecka Martinsson, who this time helps police officer Anna-Maria solve the case of a gruesome murder committed in an isolated Arctic village.

Friday December 7

REBECCA STOTT

Ghostwalk

Stott (Cambridge, 1964) teaches Literature and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia and conducts research for the British Academy. She published numerous essays and academic papers on literature and Victorian culture, as well as a biography of Charles Darwin, before trying her hand at fiction and crime writing with *Ghostwalk*. The historical mystery involving English scientist Newton and his love for alchemy won over critics and the public alike and has been translated into 12 languages. *Publishers Weekly* writes: "Magnificent. It will leave readers hoping Stott has many more stories in her future."

Friday December 7

JOHN HARVEY

Ash and Bone

Harvey (London, 1938) has published over 90 titles in a prominent 30-year career that spans theatre, poetry, television screenplays, radio adaptations and, above all, crime novels, which catapulted him and his character Charles Resnick to fame. He is this year's recipient of the prestigious Cartier Diamond Dagger for a lifetime's achievement in crime writing. Harvey's novels often feature music, one of his other loves. He performs readings with the band Second Nature and was poetry editor of Slow Dancer Press. Michael Connelly says: "John Harvey writes the way we all wish we could write. Elegiac and eloquent, his stories filled with the blood of true character." *Ash and Bone*, which the author will present at Courmayeur, features a new main character, Inspector Frank Elder.

Friday December 7

JASON GOODWIN

The Snake Stone

Goodwin's passion for Istanbul was sparked while studying Byzantine history at Cambridge. Following the success of *A Time For Tea* and a six-month trip through Eastern Europe, related in *On the Foot of the Golden Horn*, in 1987 *The Spectator* and *The Sunday Telegraph* deemed him best emerging writer of the year. In 2006, his first historical noir, *The Janissary Tree*, was called "a rare treat" by the *Times* and won Goodwin the Best Novel prize at the Edgar Allan Poe Awards of the American Crime Writers' Association. *The Snake Stone* once again features sophisticated detective Yashim, directly inspired by Raymond Chandler, who wrote that a detective is "a man who walks down mean streets but who isn't mean himself."

Saturday December 8

CODY MCFADYEN

The Face of Death

Texas native and California transplant McFadyen (1968) was nine when he decided to become a writer. However, life took him down other career paths – including that of a volunteer and videogame creator – before he wrote his first book at the age of 30, *Shadow Man*, which quickly won over critics and readers and was translated throughout the world. His second book, *The Face of Death*, also features FBI Special Agent Smoky Barrett. Assigned to hunting down the most ruthless serial killers, Barrett reluctantly delves back into the depths of darkness to protect a teenage girl just six months after her husband and daughter were brutally murdered by a psychopath.

Saturday December 8

JEFF LINDSAY

Dearly Devoted Dexter

Born Jeffry P. Freundlich (1952), before becoming a novelist Lindsay was a musician, singer-songwriter, actor, comic, sports radio commentator, and a theatre and television writer. Although his first novels were published in the early 1990s, he decided to dedicate himself fully to writing only after the smashing success of 2004's *Darkly Dreaming Dexter*, the first in a series of novels on forensics expert/serial killer of serial killers Dexter Morgan. His unconventional thriller *Dearly Devoted Dexter* is the latest installment on one of the most fascinating and original main characters on the recent crime-writing scene. Dexter is simultaneously ambiguous and moral, human and beastly, demoniac and naïve, capable of hiding his homicidal tendencies behind a façade of total normalcy. In the US, *Dexter*, the Showtime series inspired by the character, is currently in its second season while FoxCrime is airing the first series in Italy, which will be presented in a marathon screening session at Courmayeur.

Jeff Lindsay is part of the Film Jury at Courmayeur

THE GIORGIO SCERBANENCO - LA STAMPA 2007 AWARD CELEBRATES 15 YEARS WITH TWO NEW EVENTS

The first new element is a special prize, the “SuperScerbanenco,” to be awarded by a star-studded jury – presided over by Nico Orengo and comprising Graziano Braschi, Ernesto G. Laura, Carlo Oliva, Gianfranco Orsi, Cecilia Scerbanenco and Lia Volpatti – to the best Italian noir novel of the past 15 years. The winner will be announced at the beginning of the festival.

The second is that the winner of the 2007 Giorgio Scerbanenco Award for Best Published Italian Noir Novel will be chosen from among five finalists at Courmayeur by a special jury made up of some of the previous editions’ award-winning writers (Sergio Altieri, Pino Cacucci, Massimo Carlotto, Giancarlo De Cataldo, Marcello Fois, Barbara Garlaschelli, Leonardo Gori, Giancarlo Narciso, Andrea Pinketts and Claudia Salvatori).

The literary experts of the Courmayeur Noir in festival – Valerio Calzolaio, Tecla Dozio, Loredana Lipperini, Sergio Pent, Cecilia Scerbanenco, Sebastiano Triulzi, John Vignola and Fabio Zucchella, guided by Nico Orengo – have selected 21 titles from among Italian noir and crime novels published between October 2006 and September 2007, whose authors have not previously won an award. **All are invited to vote for their favorite title until November 25, 2007 on the festival’s website (www.noirfest.com).** The popular votes will be added to the preferences of the festival’s literary experts and will determine the five finalists, who will be announced at Courmayeur on December 5.

21 NOIR TITLES FROM WHICH TO VOTE FOR THE 2007 GIORGIO SCERBANENCO AWARD

Amato Marco, *Una bomba al Cantagiò*, Piemme
Baldini Eraldo, *Melma*, Edizioni Ambiente
Bettini Marco, *Mai più la verità*, Piemme
Biondillo Gianni, *Il giovane sbirro*, Guanda
Bucciarelli Elisabetta, *Dalla parte del torto*, Mursia
Dazieri Sandrone, *Bestie*, Edizioni Ambiente
Fogli Patrick, *L'ultima estate di innocenza*, Piemme
Formisano Salvio, *L'accordatore di destini*, Meridiano Zero
Gebbia Valentina, *Palermo, borgo vecchio*, E/O
Guccini Francesco, Macchiavelli Lorianò *Tango e gli altri. Romanzo di una raffica anzi tre*, Mondadori
La Spina Silvana, *Uno sbirro femmina*, Mondadori
Morchio Bruno, *Le cose che non ti ho detto*, Garzanti
Mura Gianni, *Giallo su Giallo*, Feltrinelli
Pariani Laura, *Dio non ama i bambini*, Einaudi
Perissinotto Alessandro, *L'ultima notte bianca*, Rizzoli
Rigosi Giampiero, *L'ora dell'incontro*, Einaudi
Sarasso Simone, *Confine di Stato*, Marsilio
Savatteri Gaetano, *Gli uomini che non si voltano*, Sellerio
Todde Giorgio, *Al caffè del silenzio*, Il maestrale
Varesi Valerio, *Le imperfezioni*, Frassinelli
Vichi Marco, *Nero di luna*, Guanda

THIS YEAR'S THEMES

Chi ha ucciso la giustizia? (Who killed justice?)

A look at the legal emergency in our country's headlines in the year in which the moratorium on the death penalty put forth by Italy at the UN Assembly expires. When we speak of legality we speak of Rights, Justice, the system of values that regulate civic life, the scale of moral values that each society relies upon as a reference point. Doing away with the reference point that is the Law means leaving the community prey to individual egotism, the incursions of Power and envy of others' possessions. However, transforming the dictates of law only into standards of justice means subjecting society to the judgment of common sense and the blindness of codes. What do we need most today and why has the theme of legality become an absolute exigency, an international emergency? It is often said that a society is old if it entrenches itself behind the bastion of law, preserving the status quo and acquired rights; and that the need for norms that regulate social living and protect the weak is ancient – rather, fundamental.

How does a judge, a man or woman of the Law, respond to these issues? And how does he or she react when facing the ultimate paradox, the death penalty, which is codified by far too many nations and recognized as an instrument of justice? As noir is the main expressive form that questions and reveals contradictions rather than supply reassuring certainties, it is also the perfect backdrop for this discussion. Gherardo Colombo and Scott Turow will speak on the subject with Gaetano Savatteri at Courmayeur.

Un noir contro l'ecocrimine (A noir against eco-criminality)

With regards to events of recent years, the term "Eco-Mafia" refers to several far-reaching occurrences of widespread environmental crime, which Legambiente has identified in: waste recycling (illegal disposal, international trafficking), construction (a Mafia of illegal contracting and building), animal racketeering (international trafficking as well as illegal fights and races), archeo-mafia and art theft. There is an "Eco-Mafia clan" behind these activities, representing a considerable range of organized crime. However, today the concept can be expanded. Eco-Mafia can also mean crimes committed "next door" (e.g., by the corrupt official or the "friendly businessman"). It finds favorable conditions in the inefficiency of public management, in those who want "less government" for greater freedom of movement, or in the general vocation of



small-time criminal activities in a country with inadequate laws. It is the culture of the overwhelming affirmation of private interests, which wears away at the very notion of the common good. Yet the environment more than anything else represents the common good. If we take the environment in its broadest sense – i.e., as the balance between economic, social and environmental processes for reaching sustainability – it represents both the common good and the rules that regulate its existence. From this perspective, the Eco-Mafia extends virtually to cover any illegal activity that takes away resources from those to whom they rightfully belong.

The possibility to relate, with the freedom and immediacy of narrative language, various “Eco-Mafia” projects and the social behaviors that feed them, becomes an opportunity for bringing to the forefront the meaning of our collective patrimony and the safeguarding of common resources. As well as the concrete opportunity to launch events and initiatives that give voice to society’s most active members fighting against apathy and silence. The initiative will be presented in Courmayeur by several authors who have through their stories and talent have joined a social cause that teaches direct action.

TVNOIR AND OTHER CRIMES

The overall official program of the 2007 edition is made up of numerous, interconnected sections, with the goal of taking festival viewers on a journey through the various territories of mystery and offering parallel paths with respect to the film premieres and literary encounters.

Television

'TIL DEATH DO US PART by Jeff Lieberman with: John Waters (22', USA 2006)

GENESIS by Carlos Montero with: Quim Gutiérrez (50', Spain, 2006)

DEXTER by Jeff Lindsay with: Michael C. Hall (50', USA 2006)

TV: POSTO DI POLIZIA by Italo Moscati (2 x 50', Italy, 2007)

The TV Noir titles were selected in collaboration with FOX CRIME.

We thank RAI Educational for granting us permission to present TV: Posto di Polizia



The Exhibit: CONSPIRACY AND INTRIGUE

For the fifth consecutive year, the festival is collaborating with Milan's European Institute of Design (IED) on a graphic arts project. Asked to depict their vision of noir and illustrate the "little chills" typical to the "festival within the festival" dedicated to younger audiences, the students of the IED created a series of graphic images and designs that will be exhibited, beginning with the image chosen for this year's MINI Noir poster. Several students and teachers will be in Courmayeur to hold the creative workshop that will run during the festival.

MINI Noir

NON APRITE QUELLE PORTE (“DON’T OPEN THOSE DOORS”)

Alongside the screenings, the festival is once again holding parallel events for the very young (strictly under 18). New this year are encounters for slightly older young audiences.

The encounters:

SILVANA DE MARI: Il Drago come realtà (“The dragon as reality”)

Historical and metaphorical meanings in the fantasy literature of the author of *L’ultimo Elfo* and *L’ultimo Orco*.

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO: Century

A look at thematic animation inspired by “La Città del Vento,” the third episode of the adventures of Mistral.

NON APRITE QUELLE PORTE: Two encounters and a nighttime party

On Friday, December 7, and Saturday, December 8, with Vittoria Cabello and other young personalities, a new MINI space is being inaugurated, for adolescents. To celebrate this initiative and the new edition of the Young Directors Project, a party will be held on Saturday night for all of our younger participants. Doors will open at the witching hour...



Collateral events

NOIR IN MORGEX AND SAINT VINCENT

In collaboration with the Vallée di Saint Vincent Casino, several elements of the festival's official program will be presented beyond Courmayeur.

In agreement with the board of education of Valdigne Mont Blanc, an encounter will be held in Morgex for schoolchildren on the topics of legality and justice, following screenings of films by Stefano Incerti (*L'uomo di vetro*) and Carlo Mazzacurati (*The Right Distance*).

In agreement with the Casino, a marathon screening will be held in Saint Vincent of all 13 episodes of the first season of **Dexter**. The winning film of the 2007 Courmayeur Noir in Festival will be shown on the evening of Sunday, December 9, along with encounters with some of the festival's guests.

THE VERY DARK ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Barry Sonnenfeld's film came out in 1991 and re-launched the long history of the Addams family, spawning a sequel, a new television show and even commercials. The original and highly successful TV series on the bizarre family was created by David Levy, from *The Addams Family* comic strip by Charles Addams (1913-1989) that mocked the idiosyncrasies and normal behavior of U.S. culture of that era. Some of the most incisive and funniest moments in the series were the reactions of the unlucky visitors who stumbled upon the mad family that, however, despite everything, seemed to incarnate ever positive and solidly moral models.

The film

The Addams Family film was the brainchild of a young and confident Hollywood producer, Scott Rudin, who as a boy never missed a single episode of his favorite surreal show and today is the guru of US independent filmmaking, having produced directors such as the Coen brothers and Wes Anderson.

Entrusted to then debut director Barry Sonnenfeld (who went to make quite a career for himself), the film was funded by Orion, a studio undergoing a series of financial problems. Armed initially with little more than good intentions, the trio were joined by renowned actors Anjelica Houston and the late Raul Julia, both enthusiastic about the project because they had been fans of the comic strip in their youth, and comedic character actor Christopher Lloyd, rendered infamous by the *Back to the Future* films, and the film took off.

Production lasted four months due to a series of problems on the set (Julia and Lloyd were hurt during shooting, Sonnenfeld fainted several times from stress, the DoP was hospitalized), an over-inflated shooting schedule, multiple delays and a consequent rise in budget to the frighteningly high (at the time) sum of \$30 million. Orion declared bankruptcy because of the film and halfway through production was forced to sell its rights to Paramount. However, when *The Addams Family* was released worldwide it was an enormous success, becoming the box office champion of 1991. According to Sonnenfeld, the film's true secret lies in the Addams' anti-conformist message: "We all deeply desire to do things that would shock our neighbors – the Addams do them, and with such pleasure. They're eccentric and happy to be so because they don't follow the rules of modern society and are freer than we are."



THIS YEAR'S POSTER IMAGE

Antonello Silverini was born, lives and works in Rome. After high school he studied illustration at the European Institute of Design. He works with Saatchi & Saatchi, Publicis, TBWA, McCann-Erickson, Young & Rubicam, J. Walter Thompson, Bates, Dentsu, Armando Testa, Ogilvy & Mather and Ambrosio-Maoloni. In Italy, his work has been published by Fanucci, La Repubblica, Il Sole 24ore, il Manifesto, Nessuno Tocchi Caino, Mondadori (Per Me), Rusconi-Hachette (Psychologies); in the US, by Lens and Sky. In 2006, for Proxima he designed the decorative panels in the Pastarito chain of restaurants. In 2007 he designed the covers for the special edition of the reprint of Philip K. Dick's work and created the Courmayeur Noir in Festival poster image. In 2001 he was nominated in the illustration category of the ADCl for the Viareggio Film Festival poster. In 2005, he won the International Illustration Competition at Turin's Pictor Academy and in 2006 the sixth edition of the Premio Zavrel.

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