



LA CASA ROSSA and RS PRODUCTIONS

present

**in competition in the VENICE CLASSICS section
at the 79th Venice International Film Festival**

FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI, CONFORMISTA RIBELLE

a documentary written and directed by

ANSELMA DELL'OLIO

OFFICIAL SCREENING

Wednesday September 7th at 5pm –Sala Casinò

"**Franco Zeffirelli, Conformista ribelle** ", a documentary written and directed by **Anselma Dell'Olio** and in competition in the **Venice Classics** section at the 79th Venice International Film Festival, will be officially screened for the public on Wednesday September 7th at 5.00 pm in the Sala Casinò.

Produced by **Francesca Verdini** and coproduced by **Pietro Peligra**, "**Franco Zeffirelli, Conformista ribelle**", is a **La Casa Rossa** and **RS Productions'** production in collaboration with **Rai Cinema** and with the patronage of **Fondazione Franco Zeffirelli**.

SYNOPSIS

The documentary recounts the decisive moments, the turning points and the roller coaster of a brilliant, eventful international career and the daring existence of a great Italian artist. From his origins as the son of N.N. to the conquest of great international fame as a director, art director, painter, creator of cinema, theater and opera. Through original and vintage interviews with some of the most acclaimed stars who have known, admired and loved him and with family, friends and closest collaborators, this engaging story does justice to the person and the artist - not just "The Master" - in all its multifaceted and even opposing facets. His dualistic character is manifested in his vast artistic production, but also in his political choices, in his spirituality and love for mystery, in friendships and in the legendary controversies with critical opponents. This clash of opposites will offer a well-rounded portrait, with continuous ups and downs, of an artist who has promoted and honored the highest and most popular Italian culture in the great world capitals for many decades.

*"It is the first time that a cinematographic work investigates the many, varied and even opposing professional, cultural and temperamental facets of Franco Zeffirelli – comments director **Anselma Dell'Olio** –. I was interested in the little-known differences between the vast, singular charm that his name aroused in the great cultural capitals of the world and the disdain with which he was treated in Italy. With the sole exception of his operas, for which in his country he had a fraction of the honors, respect, glory and veneration that surrounded him abroad. But I was even more interested in the inner life of a convinced Catholic homosexual, discreet but never hidden in an era much less liberal than the present".*

With the participation of

Giancarlo Antognoni, Adriana Asti, Urbano Barberini, Roberto Bolle, Fabio Canessa, Valerio Cappelli, Marina Cicogna, Sinéad Cusack, Caterina D'Amico, Tommaso D'Amico, Plácido Domingo, Titti Foti, Raimonda Gaetani, Marco Gandini, Massimo Ghini, Giancarlo Giannini, Vittorio Grigolo, Jeremy Irons, Maurizio Millenotti, Andrea Minuz, Dario Nardella, Daniel Oren, Francesco Papa, Gianni Quaranta, Riccardo Tozzi, Luca Verdone, Alessio Vlad, Pippo Zeffirelli.

ANSELMA DELL'OLIO

Anselma Dell'Olio has worked with some of the greatest masters of Italian cinema: Federico Fellini, Marco Ferreri, Francesco Rosi, Mario Monicelli, Valerio Zurlini, William Friedkin, Ennio Morricone, Elio Petri, Luchino Visconti, Michelangelo Antonioni, Mario Maldesi. She has supervised the direction of several productions for Rai and for CB- Canada, CBS and for the theater in the USA. She has performed in Café La Mama. She is the author of two acclaimed docufilms: "Fellini degli spiriti", presented at the Cannes Film Festival 2020, at the Lumière Festival 2020 and at Il Cinema Ritrovato 2020, and "La lucida follia di Marco Ferreri", screened at the Venice International Film Festival in 2017 and awarded with the Silver Ribbon and the David di Donatello for Best Documentary.

LA CASA ROSSA

A young, independent company with an environmentalist spirit, which immediately chose sustainability as its core value for all its productions. This is La Casa Rossa, a film and audiovisual production company born in Rome in 2019 by the will of the producer Francesca Verdini. A team of young enthusiasts takes care of the conception, production, co-production and post-production of television and film projects, documentaries, advertising, corporate videos and offers consulting and processing services for digital products. Born and raised in the era of environmental awareness, La Casa Rossa considers sustainability as an essential starting point for a new approach to business, defends the environment and promotes sustainable development by spreading these values through the projects in which it is committed.

RS PRODUCTIONS

RS Productions, founded in Milan in 2019 by an entrepreneurial group with broad experience in the media and publishing sectors, is a production and distribution company for audiovisual and cinematographic content. The Company is the owner, together with Portobello SpA, of Web Magazine Makers, a publishing company that has licensed the historic Rolling Stone newspaper for Italy. RS Productions is constantly on the cutting edge of the media and entertainment market, where technologic innovation and new trends are deeply changing the way contents are consumed. The Company therefore operates through studios equipped with the most advanced technologies in audio-video production, enabling the development of innovative cross-media projects.

FONDAZIONE ZEFFIRELLI ONLUS

The Franco Zeffirelli Foundation was born in Florence in 2017 at the behest of the Master who wanted to donate to his city and to the whole world the artistic heritage created in seventy years of career and composed of sketches, storyboards, models, costumes, set photos and multimedia sets and installations. The

Foundation contains within it the museum, the archive and the library. It also carries out training activities in the field of performing arts through the International Center for the Performing Arts.

Press office

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