



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 10
7-10 OCTOBER 2020
AUDITORIUM SANTA MARGHERITA, VENICE
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DARIO ARGENTO – MASTERS OF CINEMA

Ca' Foscari Honorary Fellowship

Dario Argento, one of the most influential Italian filmmakers of the past fifty years, will be among the guests of honour at the tenth edition of the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival**. As part of the conferral by the Venetian university of such a prestigious recognition as the **Ca' Foscari Honorary Fellowship**, the "master of the thrill" will take the stage of the Auditorium Santa Margherita for a *lectio magistralis* that promises to be unmissable.

Dario Argento is one of the filmmakers who has contributed the most to the construction of cinematographic codes and grammars that are innovative on an international level. Most of his films, starting from the early 1970s, are characterised by an intricate plot, visionary visual style, unconventional stylistic solutions, refined shooting angles, an avant-garde use of lights and an elaborate musical score. In addition to various collaborations as a screenwriter and producer, Argento has directed 19 films, many of which are a touchstone for the experimentation with cinematographic languages connected to diverse film genres.

Since his first work, *The Bird with the Crystal Plumage* (*L'uccello dalle piume di cristallo*, 1970), he created an entire cinematographic genre all on his own: the Italian-style detective stories, which soon inspired numerous directors. With *Deep Red* (*Profondo Rosso*, 1975) his cinema was enriched with supernatural elements creating a work cherished around the globe, while it is with the masterpiece *Suspiria* (1977), the story of a coven of witches, that the world definitively acknowledged him as an undisputed master of suspense strategies and of the new dimension of surreal art. From this moment on, his talent will be recognised as one of the most remarkable ones on the international scene.

Commonly considered the master of horror par excellence, Argento has actually experimented with various genres, starting from the detective stories of the first films to a historical setting film such as *The five days* (*Le cinque giornate*, 1973). With *Deep Red* begins a period of film production that alternates distinctly horror films with others closer to the stylistic features of the thriller, such as *Opera* (1987), *The Stendhal Syndrome* (*La sindrome di Stendhal*, 1996) and *Sleepless* (*Non ho sonno*, 2001). In addition to the world of cinema, Dario Argento has also worked in theatre, television and video games. Today, exactly 50 years after his debut, Dario Argento is going back behind the camera for his new film, *Occhiali neri*.