

Turin, March 20, 2025

## **Press Release**

## 39 Films Presented at the Fifth Life Beyond Life Film Festival

From March 29 to April 2 in three venues – the Auditorium of Pino Torinese, the Gobetti Cinema in San Mauro Torinese, and the Classico Cinema in Turin – with five international juries.

There will be 7 feature films, 5 documentaries, 12 short films, 8 documentary shorts, and 7 Art Movie productions competing for the awards at the fifth edition of the Life Beyond Life Film Festival (https://www.lifebeyondlife.net/), presented by the Università Popolare ArtInMovimento (https://www.unipopaim.it/) in synergy with A.R.E.I. (Afterlife Research and Education Institute) and the Religion Today Film Festival. Linked with the international conferences "Andare Oltre. Uniti nella Luce" and "Oltre l'Oltre," the LBLFF focuses on eschatological themes, mostly related to life after death, and welcomes films from around the world that explore death, destiny, and the experiences of mediums, channelers, and spiritual researchers.

The 494 films submitted through FilmFreeway (484) and Festhome (10) were thoroughly reviewed by a two-tier judging panel. From this detailed work emerged the lineup for this year, representing 8% of the total submissions.

The countries most represented among the 39 selected films are the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, followed by France, Spain, and Germany. A single entry comes from Italy, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Lithuania, Singapore, Canada, Brazil, China, Japan, India, Australia, and Morocco. With twenty countries participating, all five continents are represented, and 43% of the films come from Europe, highlighting "the interest of the old continent in these themes, especially the strong presence of the United Kingdom, France, Spain, and Germany," notes Annunziato Gentiluomo, creator, co-founder, and artistic director of the Life Beyond Life Film Festival.

Among the films in the fifth edition's lineup, three have already won multiple awards at prestigious international festivals: the Belgian short "It Burnes" directed by Kate Maveau; the American short "As Easy As Closing Your Eyes" directed by Parker Croft; and the Japanese feature "The Afterlife Photo" directed by Tatsuaki Mizoi.

The jury includes several prominent names. Returning are Massinissa Askeur, winner of the Golden Lion for Visual Arts in 2023 in Venice, voice actor Alberto Olivero, and musician-festival artistic director Sebastian Swartz.

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This year's program spans five days: it begins on March 29 at the Auditorium of Pino Torinese (TO), located in Piazza M. Montessori (formerly Via Folis 9); on March 31 it moves to the Cine Teatro Gobetti in San Mauro Torinese (TO), in Via Martiri della Libertà, 17; and concludes on April 2 at the Cinema Classico in Turin, located in Piazza Vittorio Veneto, 5.

Admission is free throughout the five days of programming. Some winning films will be screened at the Cinema Classico right after the awards ceremony.

"Although Life Beyond Life is completely self-managed and powered solely by the passion of its three founders and the selection team, it continues to attract the interest of many authors and industry professionals, as it has gained clear international recognition. Moreover, there are 53 reviews on FilmFreeway, all of them expressing appreciation for our work from the authors who participated in the various editions of the festival," says Andrea Morghen, co-founder and Program Director of the Festival.

"And we've reached five full days of programming, and this year we've expanded to the municipality of San Mauro Torinese, expressing the itinerant soul of the LBLFF. I thank the Council of Pino Torinese, my hometown, and especially Councilor Elisa Pagliasso for sponsoring and confirming their trust in this event, which clearly has a social and spiritual mission. I also thank Mayor Giulia Guazzora and the Council of San Mauro Torinese for their support, and the owner of the Cine Teatro Gobetti, Stefano Mascagni, who immediately made himself available to help us with the event," says Matteo Valier, co-founder and Operations Manager of the international event.

"Even though we have yet to begin, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for this fifth edition of the Life Beyond Life Film Festival. The quality of programming keeps rising, and we only hope to engage the audience well so these films and documentaries, which provoke reflection and personal growth, are truly enjoyed and appreciated. The excellent team that believes in the social relevance of this festival and its ability to raise awareness about death and life beyond is increasingly diverse and cohesive," concludes Annunziato Gentiluomo.

The event is sponsored by the Metropolitan City of Turin, the Municipality of Pino Torinese, the Municipality of San Mauro Torinese, and is supported by AREI, the Religion Today Film Festival, BIMED – Biennale of Mediterranean Arts and Sciences, ASI – Holistic and Oriental Arts Division, CNUPI, the Salutogenesis Foundation, the Ghost Hunters Association, and Psiche 2 Publishing.

The main media partner is ArtInMovimento Magazine (http://artinmovimento.com/) with its webradio (https://www.spreaker.com/user/artinmovimento), supported by Arte Settima, CameraLook, LaC TV, Horror Italia 24, Central do Cinema, Agenda del Cinema



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