

BAMcinémathèque presents *Gianfranco Rosi*, Oct 28—Nov 3

Rosi to appear in person for Q&As following screenings on Nov 1 & 2

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor for BAMcinémathèque and BAM Rose Cinemas.

Sep 28, 2016/Brooklyn, NY—From Friday, October 28, through Thursday, November 3, BAMcinémathèque presents a retrospective of the striking, award-winning films of Gianfranco Rosi. To mark the release of his acclaimed new film *Fire at Sea*, BAMcinémathèque surveys the career of “a director gradually earning the right to be thought of as one of the greats of our era” (Trevor Johnson, *Sight & Sound*).

The documentaries of Rosi are dispatches from the far fringes of society, chronicling everything from life in a California shantytown to death along India’s Ganges River. Despite their disparate geographies, all are rooted in a remarkably strong sense of place, with Rosi often spending years immersed in an environment to establish an intimate rapport with his subjects.

Rosi was born in Asmara, Eritrea but at the young age of thirteen was forced to migrate alone to Italy during the Eritrean War of Independence. At 20, he attended New York University’s Film School and completed his first documentary feature, *Boatman*, in 1993. His follow-up, *Below Sea Level* (2008), won two awards at the Venice Film Festival.

In 2013, Rosi’s *Sacro GRA* became the first documentary ever to win the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival. His previous film, the powerfully austere *El Sicario, Room 164* (2011), focuses on the testimony of a Juarez narco-assassin; “A lot of evil is laid on the table in *El Sicario*, and the film makes a big, if exquisitely subtle, show of theorizing that there’s no way to explain how it got there” (*Slate*).

Closing out the series is *Fire at Sea*, Rosi’s latest film and the Golden Bear winner at the 2016 Berlin Film Festival. The film, distributed by Kino Lorber and opening theatrically on October 21, offers insight on a reality close to Rosi’s personal experience as a child forced to flee home in wartime, leaving his family behind. *Fire at Sea* documents the struggle and consequences of refugees risking their lives to escape violence. The film is Italy’s official entry to the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film consideration and is also shortlisted for Best Documentary at the European Film Awards. *Film Comment* writes, “*Fire at Sea* is a beautiful artifact presented for your contemplation. It is also an act of conscience. And it is harrowing.”

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Gianfranco Rosi Schedule

Fri, Oct 28

7pm: *Below Sea Level*

5:30pm: *Boatman*

Sat, Oct 29

4:30pm: *Sacro GRA*

Sun, Oct 30

4pm: *El Sicario, Room 164*

6pm: *Fire At Sea*

Mon, Oct 31

7pm: *Below Sea Level*

Tue, Nov 1

7:30pm: *Boatman*

With Rosi in attendance.

Wed, Nov 2

7:30pm: *Sacro GRA*

With Rosi in attendance.

Thu, Nov 3

7:30pm: *El Sicario, Room 164*

Film Descriptions

Below Sea Level (2008)

In a desert wasteland 200 miles outside LA rises Slab City, a DIY, 21st-century pioneer town known as “The Last Free Place in America.” Over the course of two years, Rosi filmed the outsiders, outcasts, and bohemians—many with their share of personal demons—who populate this ramshackle village, crafting a non-judgmental, open-ended look at what it means to live off the grid in a hyper-connected age.

Fri, Oct 28 at 7pm & Mon, Oct 31 at 7pm

Boatman (1993)

Rosi’s impressive debut takes viewers on a free-flowing tour of Varanasi (formerly Benares), the Indian holy city on the banks of the Ganges River, a place teeming with both life and, as a sacred Hindu burial site, death. The director’s unobtrusive, observational style yields a stream of unexpectedly entertaining, casually profound encounters.

Fri, Oct 28 at 5:30pm & Tue, Nov 1 at 7:30pm *With Rosi in attendance on November 1.*

Fire at Sea (2016)

Winner of the top prize at the Berlin Film Festival, Rosi’s latest is a stunning, up-close view of the international migrant crisis. Each year, thousands of refugees risk their lives to reach Lampedusa, the tiny Mediterranean island that’s become a prime gateway to Europe. Juxtaposing their experiences with the day-to-day realities of Lampedusa’s residents, Rosi fashions a harrowing, haunting portrait of life and death at a cultural crossroads.

Sun, Oct 30 at 6pm

Sacro Gra (2013)

This beguiling portrait of life along the GRA—a circular highway running around the perimeter of Rome—was the first documentary to win the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival. Without commentary, Rosi presents revealing snapshots of those who live and work near the road: EMTs, prostitutes, vagabonds, gravediggers. What emerges is at once intimate and expansive, a microcosm of a Rome rarely glimpsed.

Sat, Oct 29 at 4:30pm & Wed, Nov 2 at 7:30pm *With Rosi in attendance on November 2.*

El Sicario, Room 164 (2010)

Rosi's minimalist tour-de-force takes the talking-head format to its gripping, disturbing extreme. In a nondescript hotel room, a man, his face shrouded by a black hood, matter-of-factly describes his life and career as a hitman for a Mexican drug cartel. The stories he spins—of crime, corruption, torture, and murder—are chilling evocations of evil, but it's impossible to look away.

Sun, Oct 30 at 4pm & Thu, Nov 3 at 7:30pm

About BAMcinématek

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn's only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the eighth annual BAMcinemaFest ran from June 15—26, 2016.

Credits

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinématek.

Steinberg Screen at the BAM Harvey Theater is made possible by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

Delta is the Official Airline of BAM. Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM.

BAM Rose Cinemas are named in recognition of a major gift in honor of Jonathan F.P. and Diana Calthorpe Rose. BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, The Estate of Richard B. Fisher, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and Bloomberg. Additional support for BAMcinématek is provided by The Grodzins Fund, The Liman Foundation, and the Julian Price Family Foundation.

Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater); D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.

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The home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. Brooklyn Academy of Music | Peter Jay Sharp Building | 30 Lafayette Avenue | Brooklyn NY 11217—1486

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