

PALACE presents the **LAVAZZA**
**ITALIAN FILM
FESTIVAL 2011**



**VISIT BY DYNAMIC DIRECTOR GIVES
20 MORE REASONS TO ATTEND 2011 FESTIVAL**

One of the most compelling and anticipated films to screen at the **2011 Lavazza Italian Film Festival** is **20 CIGARETTES**, a multi-award winning drama from first-time director Aureliano Amadei, who we're delighted to announce will be a guest of the Festival in both Melbourne and Sydney.

Critically feted, **20 CIGARETTES** has won a slew of awards from bodies such as the Venice Film Festival, David Di Donatello Awards (Italian Academy Awards) and Italian Golden Globes, amongst many others and has catapulted its young director into the global spotlight.

Amadei, who will be introducing Festival sessions of his film and participating in Q&As, was the only civilian survivor of the November 2003 suicide bombing at the Italian military headquarters in Nasiriyah, Iraq. His experiences prompted him to write a book about the attack and the ensuing media storm. **20 CIGARETTES**, which chronicles this episode, takes its name from the fact that heavy smoker, Amadei, hadn't even finished his first pack of cigarettes on Iraqi soil before his life was irrevocably changed.

Completely fluent in English, Amadei is flying to Australia fresh from his duties as a juror at the 2011 Venice Film Festival and will be available for interviews in Melbourne and Sydney from 28 to 30 September inclusive.

Additional guests of the 2011 Lavazza Italian Film Festival include:

Pier Giorgio Bellocchio star of SORELLE MAI

Son of filmmaker Marco Bellocchio and actress Gisella Burino, Pier Giorgio Bellocchio debuted as an actor aged six and in addition his producing credits, has acted in a film nearly every year since 1999. He features in his father's latest movie, **SORELLE MAI**, which screens as part of the Festival, and will be participating in Sydney-based panel discussions on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September. *Please refer to attached flyer for full details.*

Paolo Minuto – Cineclub Internazionale

A sought-after juror at international film festivals, Mr Minuto is also the President of Cineclub Internazionale, an independent film distributor, and professor of Italian Cinema at the University for Foreigners Dante Alighieri of Reggio Calabria. He will be in Sydney to participate in a panel discussion at Palace Norton Street on Thursday 29 September at 7pm with other guests of the Festival. *Please refer to attached flyer for full details.*

Donato Buchicchio – Guest Chef, Ristorante Due Torre (Potenza)

Famed Italian chef, Donato Buchicchio is closing his restaurant in Potenza (Basilicata) to visit Australia as a Guest of the Festival, to give patrons a taste of southern Italy at selected screenings of **BASILICATA COAST TO COAST**. He will be in Sydney on Sunday 25 September at Palace Norton Street for a special event screening of **BASILICATA COAST TO COAST**. *Please refer to attached flyer for full details.*

The **2011 LAVAZZA ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL** is currently screening in Melbourne and Sydney until 5 October and will screen in **Brisbane** from 5 – 23 Oct, **Adelaide** from 12 - 30 Oct and **Perth** from 13 – 26 Oct.

Visit the Festival website at: <http://www.italianfilmfestival.com.au/>

MEDIA / INTERVIEW ENQUIRIES

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