

## Quotes from the International Press on the Venice Mostra d'Arte Cinematografica 2003

### Variety

Steven Gaydos, 12.09.03:

As for Venice, 2003 was a triumph. The fest discovered major new filmmakers like Golden Lion winner Andrei Zvyagintsev ("The Return") and drew oceans of ink for the celebs on hand, including George Clooney, Catherine Zeta-Jones ... Many of the organizational bugs that have plagued the Venice fest for decades seem finally to have been addressed, if not solved, and there's a renewed determination in Biennale chief Franco Bernabé and his ally, the eternally feisty de Hadeln, to get the historic Venice bureaucratic nonsense under control. And with the one-two punch of Toronto and Venice as showcases both for Oscar contenders and important new products, life on the Lido in 2004 looks bright indeed.

### The Times

J. Ch., 04.09.03:

The quality of his (de Hadeln's) competition is eclipsing Berlin and Cannes

### The Times

James Christopher, 09.09.03:

A festival that has been full of dazzling flourishes... Despite the odd fluff notes, the depth and breadth of Venice's 143 films quite contradicts Kitano's aphorism ("The more you open your eyes the less you see"). Credit has to go to the artistic director, Moritz de Hadeln, who has chaperoned this festival as astutely as a Swiss German banker. His programme has reinvigorated the whole point of a festival being a place of debate. After the disappointment of Cannes, Venice has excelled at providing flash-points. The real surprise is the creative health of cinema outside Hollywood. The sheer weight of celebrity that twitched up to the Lido on their gondolas seems to suggest that the destiny of Hollywood and 'world cinema' is far more inseparable than anyone dared hope.



### Le Monde

Thomas Sotinel, 09.09.03:

L'abondance de films de qualité a assuré cette année la réussite du festival vénitien, qui a donné pendant dix jours une idée complète et encourageante de l'état du septième art.

### Liberation

Didier Peron, 08.09.03:

Cette livraison 2003 de Venise s'est avérée de plutôt bonne tenue. Confronté à des problèmes budgétaires empêchant le festival de gagner en puissance, le directeur Moritz de Hadeln doit s'estimer satisfait de cette deuxième édition sous sa responsabilité, avec émeutes de fans autour de Woody Allen, George Clooney ou Sean Penn, feu de paille polémique (pour le Twenty-Nine Palms de Bruno Dumont), bouffée d'orgueil national (avec le Bertolucci et le Bellocchio), et découverte imprévue : le Retour, léonisé d'or.

## **Le Figaro**

Marie-Noelle Tranchant, 08.09.03:

C'est un palmarès réfléchi, sensible et équilibré, reflet d'une Mostra vivante et ouverte, qu'a livré le jury présidé par Mario Monicelli... Pas de bluff, pas de "coup", dans ce palmarès, mais une attention généreuse à la fois à l'originalité du style et à la dimension humaine des films.

## **The Independent**

Peter Popham, 07.09.03:

Festival-goers were groping for superlatives after a feast of film... After this festival, Venice's claim to be on a par with Cannes, or rather better, has never looked stronger.

## **Financial Times**

Nigel Andrews, 08.09.03:

With Clooney on parade, and the likes of Cage, Hopkins, Penn, Depp... Venice continues to be the most glittering film junket outside Cannes. Here's to the next 60 years.

## **The Guardian**

Fiachra Gibbons, 06.09.03:

David Stratton, the senior critic on Variety, who is retiring this year after more Venice festivals that he cares to remember, was heartened by what he saw... Hollywood, he believes, will not have all its own way for a while yet.

## **Screen International**

Lee Marshall and Patrick Frater, 06-09.03:

Pre-festival indications that this was going to be one of the best Venice festivals for a number of years... were largely borne out... That the festival had come up with a diverse, rounded and high quality field must have been a comfort to the programmers, who did much more than pick up Cannes' cast-offs.



## **The Internet Movie Database**

Sean Axmaker, 04.09.03:

...the Venice Film Festival, the world's oldest, and in some respects, still the most glamorous continuing film festival. Now celebrating its 60th incarnation, this is first blow in the fall cinema season's one-two festival punch of Venice/Toronto, still the smaller, more elegant of the two...

(Quotes prepared by the Press Office of the Mostra)