



**Film Festival in remote area
11th EDITION 2025**

Venticano and surroundings (AV-Italy)

For the eleventh consecutive year, the Corto e a capo/Premio Mario Puzo festival continues its journey to bring cinema where cinema is not usually at home, in the suburbs, in internal areas, in those areas where it is often difficult to see moving images beyond the screens of their mobile phones or televisions. We pursue the paradox of making cinema central thanks to the attention of peripheral areas and of making the periphery central thanks to the power of images and cinematic storytelling. From farmyards to squares, from cellars to terraces, from old farmhouses to open-air arenas, every place for us becomes a good place to host cinemas, to tell stories, to show faces, places and realities far and near to the viewer.

ARTIFICIAL EXISTENCES, life stories between reality, fake news, legends and simulated intelligence is the theme of this new edition.

If the reality of internal areas seems immutable and crystallized, new technologies add an element of artificiality to everything around us, an indefinite path between falsehood, fiction and new reality. From "The War of the Worlds" to the latest trend of resurrecting great actors with artificial intelligence, cinema and storytelling have been fertile ground for stories, inventions and artificial realities, as have been fireplaces, squares and clubs of country for the creation of stories, legends and myths.

In our tours among the internal villages, among the people and in the hinterland, thanks to the words and above all to the strength of the cinematographic images, we will try to recover and recognize old stories but also to decipher and analyze the modernity that we find in source, real or whether artificial.

The competing short and feature films will be divided into different sections, both short and feature films, and will compete for different prizes as follows::

Short film contest: works of any kind (animation, fiction, documentary, videoclip) lasting up to 15 minutes, in Italian or subtitled in Italian, made from 2024 onwards and that we have not participated in previous editions of Corto e Capo/Mario Puzo Prize contend the following awards:

- **Best Short Daena / Short Prize Corto e a capo:** trophy + 500 Euro, with trophy also for the second and third place.

- **Prize "Artificial existences"** Trophy + 200 €. to the short film that will deal best with the theme of the event: "ARTIFICIAL EXISTENCES, life stories between reality, fake news, legends and simulated intelligence is the theme of this new edition;
- **Best Social Short - The Imaginal:** Trophy + € 100. Award that the Daena association wants to dedicate to those who manage to treat a social (or psychological) theme with originality, style and communication.
- **Best school short - School days:** prize dedicated to the best short film made in schools of any type and grade (Schools can ask a waiver code for free entry) or movies about young people.
- **Environmental sustainability.** Section dedicated to short films and documentaries that have as their theme environmental sustainability, lifestyles in harmony with the planet, climate change and other references to the 17 Sdgs (Sustainable Development Goals) of the UN Agenda 2030. For the third consecutive year, thanks to the partnership with Officine Sostenibili Società Benefit, a company specialized in the creation of communication and environmental education campaigns aimed at citizens and schools of all levels, the best themed works will be awarded at the festival by a specific jury and the winners will sign a paid contract to be included in Educational Goal 2025/26 (www.educationalgoal.it), a program of events and initiatives (films, documentaries, contests, live talk show) for sustainability education, which in recent editions has involved over 50 cities, 220 schools, 650 classes, 6,000 primary school students and 4,000 secondary school students across the entire national territory.
- **Tell me what filter you use and I'll tell you who you are.** Finding the Origins without going back. Recovering a love, a landscape, a pair of shoes, lost time, rewriting history to have a second chance. In the challenge between artificiality and authenticity, we will reward the work of "recovery" with an authentic meaning and a more contemporary language, helping us to return to the...future. While in the more anthropized areas the tendency is to eliminate filters (especially on social networks) to return to seeing the world in a more authentic way, in internal areas it is still "useful" to look at reality through tools that generate illusions.

For feature films: this year Mario Puzo Film Festival confirms the interest in the world of independent feature films and documentaries, works made from 2024 onwards and that are in Italian or with Italian subtitles, with the following sections in competition:

- **DAENA Award for feature films** € 200 + Trophy, dedicated to independent works of fiction of any genre and on any subject lasting more than 52 minutes;
- **Special DAENA documentary prize** € 200 + Trophy, dedicated to documentary works lasting more than 20 minutes.

Premio Mario Puzo Trophy to the best screenplay that the jury will assign to the work that will have a better narrative structure and a high quality writing. The award is a tribute to the great Mario Puzo, author and writer of successful works such as *Il padrino*, *Cotton club* and *Superman*, which has its origins in Dentecane, just a few steps from the festival.

The registration for the competition can only take place through the "Film freeway" platform, in the page dedicated to Corto and in charge, through the following timetable with related rates:

- from January 25th to March 30th it will cost 7 euros (except for the section “Best school short film – School days” which is free);
- from March 31st to April 30th at a cost of 14 euros (except for the section “Best school short film – School days which is free);

A download link must be active for all the works. In the case of works with dialogues in a foreign language, subtitling in Italian is compulsory. The works already presented at previous editions of Corto and at the head are not admitted in the competition.

Participation in the festival implies acceptance of the following general rules:

- All shipping costs are incurred by the participant
- While ensuring the utmost care for the works, no responsibility is assumed for any loss or damage caused by any cause they are generated.
- The selection of the visual material will be carried out in an unquestionable judgment of the organization of the festival, either directly or through the means decided by it. The winners of the individual sections will be determined by a qualified jury nominated by the organization itself.
- The organization, with the only purpose of benefiting the movie, may move it by section if it deems it appropriate.
- Physical awards (trophies, placards and attestations) will be delivered to the directors present at the closing event of the Festival or to their trusted delegates to receive them. Physical awards not withdrawn to the prize will not come, delivered in any way. Money prizes needs a regular bank current account.
- The Competition Authority has the final judgment on controversial cases and on matters not covered by this Regulation.
- By signing up for the competition, each individual author is responsible for the content of his works and explicitly authorizes the projection of the works presented during the festival and the initiatives connected to it, exclusively for cultural / promotional purposes.
- Small sequences or frames of jobs sent may be used as promotional material of the festival (within spots, graphic communications, etc.), exclusively as a promotion and non-profit event.
- Works that do not comply with the criteria set forth in the notice or are sent without respect to the directives indicated will be excluded from the competition.
- Part of the festival could take place online with viewing of the works in streaming, only in case of need, after communication to the authors (or to those who have registered the short for it).
- Some works could be used by the Festival in initiatives connected to it, exclusively on a non-profit basis and guaranteeing the adequacy of the context.
- The participant's data are exclusively for proper organizational management of the competition and to ensure its regularity. The Organizing Body warrants that such data will not be used for any other purpose and will not in any case be transferred to third parties.
- All official communications will be posted on www.cortoeacapo.it.