BREAKING NEWS
Francis Ford Coppola Shares His Oscar Memories

Museum Of The Moving Image Announces First Look Festival Lineup, Including "Simmering, Sexually Charged" Opening Night Film 'Murina'

By Matthew Jacobs ⓧ
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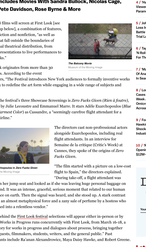
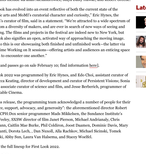


Museum of the Moving Image

EXCLUSIVE: New York's Museum of the Moving Image announced the full lineup today for the 7th edition of First Look, its annual festival showcasing adventurous cinema from around the world.

The in-person festival, running March 10-20 at MoMI in Astoria, Queens, will kick off with Antonio Aloisio Kurjakovic's *Murina*, a "simmering, sexually charged coming of age tale set in coastal Croatia," centered on a young woman named Murina. Marina Ivanko Cetinić and Leonardo Pecikoza Ćetković star. It's the last movie Film Forward, an award for Best First Feature.

Other films in the festival include the Oscar-winning shorts doc, a documentary that director Pascal Lemaire shot entirely from the balcony of his apartment in Warsaw, Poland. This, which MoMI calls "delightful and insightful," won the Grand Prix at the 2021 Lacanau Film Festival's Critics Week.


The Balcony Movie
Courtesy of Museum of the Moving Image

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In all, 38 films will screen at First Look (see full lineup below), a combination of features, shorts, documentaries, and "immersive" forms that fall outside the boundaries of traditional theatrical distribution, from gallery presentations to live performances by artist talks.

The work originates from more than 30 countries. According to the event organizers, "The Festival introduces New York audiences to formally inventive works that seek to redefine the art form while engaging in a wide range of subjects and styles."

Among the festival's three Showcase Screenings is *Zero Parks Gleen* (Ilana Z Komatsu), directed by Julia Lacherman and Emmanuel Marre. It stars Adèle Exarchopoulos (*La Vie Adèle*, *The Blue Is Warmest Color*) as a lonesome, "seemingly carefree flight attendant for a budget airline."

Adèle Exarchopoulos in Zero Parks Glen
Courtesy of Museum of the Moving Image

The directors cast non-professional actors alongside Exarchopoulos, including Italian actor Giovanni Ribisi. Ribisi, who is Oscar-nominated for his work in *Gremlins 2*, stars as the father of the origina *Zero Parks Glen*.

"The film starts with a picture on a low-cost flight to Spain," the directors explained. "During takeoff, a flight attendant was sitting on her jump seat and looked as if she was having huge personal baggage on the ground. It was an intense, graceful, serious moment that stirred in us a strange experience on earth. Then the impact was heard, and she stood up. A dark contrast between the seriousness of her heart and a sony sale of perfume by a business who had turned into a cheap vendor."

Artists behind the First Look festival selections will appear either in-person or by remote. Works in Progress runs concurrently with First Look, from March 10-20, "laboratory for works in progress and dialogues about process, bringing together festival guests, filmmakers, curators, and the general public." Past participants include Ra'ayan Alexandrowicz, Maya Daisy Houbre, and Robert Greene.

"Year Look revolved into an event exclusive of both the cinematic and the gallery, cinematic arts and MoMI's curatorial character and curiosity," Eric Hynes, the museum's curator of film, said in a statement. "We've attempted to a wide spectrum of work, from a diversity of makers, and are ever in search of new ways of seeing and hearing and feeling. Moving Image Lab, Works in Progress, and Film Forward, the First Look sub-singles out opts, activated way of approaching the moving image. Crucial to this is our showcasing both finished and unfinished work—the latter to say our distinct thinking that cinema—offering artists and audiences an enticing space in which to encounter one another."

Tickets and passes go on sale Friday, see full information here.

First Look 2022 was programmed by Eric Hynes, and Eric Chai, assistant curator of film; Rees Lloyd, director of development and curator of Persistent Vision; Aaron Epstein, associate curator of science and film, and Irene Berkowitz, programmer of Discophilia Cinema.

In a press release, the programming team acknowledged a number of people for their "guidance, support, advocacy, and generosity," the aforementioned director Robert Greene, OPEN film series programmer Mark Mikhelson, the Sundance Institute's Kristin Feeley, MOMI director of film Laura Kipnis, Cinema Tonight's Jeremy Borchman, Caitlin Mae Burke, Phil Coldiron, Jesse Dauner, Dominic Dorn, Mary Lea Gleason, Dawn Lim, Jack Newell, Alfa Ramlan, Michael Reichelt, Tomek Sendecki, Abby Sun, Laura Van Fisherna, and Stacey Wachtel.

Below is the full lineup for First Look 2022.

Opening night:

Murina (New York City premiere)

Murina
Courtesy of Museum of the Moving Image

Dir. Antonio Aloisio Kurjakovic (Croatia/Brazil/United States/Slovenia, 2022, 92 min.) Winner of the Camera d'Or Short Film Prize at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, Best Feature Film Award, Croatia Film Festival. "Simmering, sexually charged coming of age tale set in coastal Croatia. Artistic choices with her expressive father and expressive mother, realizes Julija seeks liberation from their hold. Murina is a lyrical, tense, and an all family friend homeostatic overlapping waves of greed, jealousy, desire, and rage. Cinematic arts and MoMI's curatorial character and curiosity."