



5th LIFE AFTER OIL International Film Festival

September 12-15 2018 Santa Teresa Gallura (SS), Sardinia, Italy

Introduction

LIFE AFTER OIL International Film Festival was born in 2014 with the first edition held in Martis, a small town in the Sassari province. The event, the only one of its kind in Sardinia, seeks to raise awareness among the widest possible audience on topics like ecology, environmental sustainability and the creation of alternative energy sources to fossil fuels. It is a film exhibition/competition for cinematographic works (documentaries, animations, fictions, video art) dealing with these issues both as a denunciation of the existing or as a description, proposal or project of manufacturing realities based on alternative fuels.

The Festival has been conceived and directed by director Massimiliano Mazzotta, and it represents the natural evolution of his professional career as author of various cinematographic works, especially of two documentaries - **OIL** and **OIL Second Half** - that have legitimised him in Sardinia, Italy and internationally as one of the most brave and significant independent directors. **OIL** is a documentary, produced between 2007 and 2008, which investigates on the environmental impact of the petrochemical pole of Sarroch (CA) and in particular on Saras, the oil refinery founded in the early 60's by the Milanese industrial Angelo Moratti, industry that's still operating today. Although it has been an industrial reality on the island for the past fifty years, before Mazzotta no film director or journalist ever carried out such an in-depth, objective and resounding inquiry into the consequences of Saras's activity on the territory and the populations that reside there.

In 2011 Mazzotta directed **OIL Second Half**, another documentary focused on the activities of the Moratti family, a continuation and follow-up of **OIL**. In addition to the Saras affair, the film also focuses on the connections between the Minister for the Environment miss Prestigiacomio and the polluting industries of her own family, on the connection between football and oil, on the funding for Peace Reporter and Emergency by the Moratti family, in a more general view of the interests and economic-financial strategies of the Milanese family of oil dealers.

History of past editions

First edition 2014, Martis (SS)

For three days Martis became a workshop where both adults and children were able to practice the possibility of a less polluted and more sustainable world. The occasion was the debut of the **Life After Oil Movie Award for environmental themes, conceived by documentary filmmaker Massimiliano Mazzotta as part of the IX edition of the Sardinia Film Festival**. Martis was not chosen by chance, it is one of the 19 Sardinian municipalities affected by the project of exploitation of geothermal resources called 'Martis' that was born with the aim of drilling into more than 270 square kilometers of land of agricultural, pastoral and landscaping interest.

There were 19 documentaries in competition from all over the world, and the interesting thing is that in Burma, in Germany and other places everyone was saying the same thing, or at least everyone is facing the same problem, that is identifying possible alternatives to current models of production. In addition to the screening of the movies there were many collateral events, including a children's workshop on terra cruda and an adult workshop on energy sustainability. There were of course many opportunities to discuss with the directors, to get a share of their experiences and to share projects and proposals for a greener future.

Second edition 2015, Martis (SS)

An International Film Festival with 17 films selected out of the 120 received from around the world, but also a real social forum in which to talk about sustainable development and resource sharing, and to experience green alternatives to fossil fuels. After last year's success, **LIFE AFTER OIL International Film Festival** was back in Martis. The partnership between the Festival and the Sardinia Film Commission Foundation is part of the Heroes 20.20.20. project for the promotion of energy saving, for the development of green productions and therefore an all-around concept of sustainability that is environmental, social and economic.

Martis: "A small village with futuristic ideas that is at the forefront on the theme of man in symbiosis with nature. **Life After Oil** is a festival with movie screenings, but the purpose is also to make social policies through movies. That's why I also try to link workshops to the screenings to help people get a better understanding." Artistic director Massimiliano Mazzotta talks about the local territory that hosted the second edition of the film festival dedicated to protecting the environment and showing alternatives to fossil fuels. Mazzotta's words are not a simple formal act to a municipal administration that supported the festival, because Martis was far more than a hosting location, it was an integral part of a project that went beyond three intense days of screenings, and was the example of a community saying no to drilling

giants, sharing the passion for the environment and experimenting the use of renewable energies. A whole village involved in both organization and hospitality, directors coming from all over the world, an attentive audience and multidisciplinary workshops on environmental issues: these are the ingredients that contributed to the success of the second edition of the **Life After Oil International Film Festival**. All of Martis community was involved in hospitality, particularly important was the great commitment of local girls and boys who decorated the main streets with sofas, chairs and tables made of reclaimed wood. This particular setting was highly appreciated by festival guests, as well as the local food prepared by members of the Youth Board. In addition to village of Martis, the festival involved also the surrounding area with guided tours.

Third edition 2016, Stintino (SS)

There is a life after oil, but we have to act now: this was the message of this year's **Life After Oil IFF, the Festival created by director Massimiliano Mazzotta** who deals with topics like ecology, environmental sustainability and human rights. After the first two editions, the event moved from Martis to Stintino: four days, 19 movies, two workshops (one on Iran by journalist Fabrizio Cassinelli, the other on food by oncologist Franco Berrino) and a concert by Ilaria Porceddu. The 19 movies in competition were selected among 140 films received from all over the world. Four days of powerful images and controversial topics: pollution caused by oil spills and by damage to nuclear power plants, deforestation, the search for alternative and sustainable sources and the respect for human rights. **Life After Oil International Film Festival** was of great interest for Stintino's public and tourists, thanks also to the workshops on Iran's situation and on proper nutrition as cancer prevention.

LIFE AFTER OIL International Film Festival, dedicated to movies that deal with environmental sustainability and ecology, this year found its home in one of the most famous and popular tourist resorts in Sardinia. The Festival's cultural vocation - with the aim of raising awareness and information on the most current issues relating to ecology, environmental sustainability, promotion of alternative energy sources, human rights, environmental protection - met with the sensitivity of the Administration municipality of Stintino and the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, through the Film Commission, and found the ideal partners to develop the debate started in the previous editions of the Festival. **LIFE AFTER OIL International Film Festival Third edition** opened with a tribute to director Giuseppe Ferrara, who was Honorary Chairman of the Cultural Association LIFE AFTER OIL and who died on June 25th 2016 in Rome. Ferrara inaugurated the first edition of LIFE AFTER OIL International Film Festival on March 9th 2013 in Martis (SS).

The Short Movies jury was made of boys and girls from Stintino's middle school, who recently attended a course organized by LIFE AFTER OIL Cultural Association in collaboration with Mi.Ma.Ciak Association on photography, filming and editing dedicated to topics like energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. During the two-day course in Stintino (13-14 April 2016), the council hall of the municipality was transformed into a photographic studio and film set where 11 years-old boys and girls were involved in the making of a mini-documentary about Stintino. The passion, dedication and excellent results of the group of students convinced the Festival's direction to entrust them with the challenging duty of being the jury of the Short Movies section.

LIFE AFTER OIL's DNA is undoubtedly unique for multiple reasons: for its very genesis, for its bond with Sardinian territory which harmoniously blends with an absolutely international programme, for its independence and for its choice of an autonomous consistency, things which are so rare these days. For four days each single story that was screened in the beautiful square of Stintino's old port talked to an attentive and devoted audience about our planet, our time, our own humanity and about the difficult challenges that we are facing and we will face even more in the future if we want to try to leave to posterity a world in which we can live and not just survive. This is the common denominator of LIFE AFTER OIL IFF: we belong to every place and every place belongs to us.

Fourth edition 2017, S. Teresa Gallura (SS)

This movie festival was born with the intention of going beyond the report. Although it is important to raise public awareness about the risks associated with the exploitation and use of natural resources and the use of fossil fuels, we must not forget about the dramatic and enormous problem of disasters caused by energy shortages and by food and water supply problems that affect a very large part of the world's population. The main objective of the festival is therefore not only to highlight problems related to the use of fossil fuels, but above all to identify possible alternatives that take into account, on the basis of current scientific knowledge, the various known production models.

The fourth edition of **LIFE AFTER OIL International Film Festival** had a very international approach. The juries received a very high number of works that share the common topic of environment and energy resources, topics that are at the very heart of the festival which has the patronage of the European Parliament, of Sardinia autonomous region and of the Sardinia Film Commission Foundation. The country that sent the most movies was Iran, which confirms its positively creative production moment, with 43 works (as many as those received from Italy and USA) among which 4 were selected for the public screenings. There were 4 sections for movies

participating in the competition: Animations, Short Films, Human Rights and Documentaries.

7 movies made up the out of competition section **Heroes 20.20.20.**, which is a project, started by the Sardinia film commission foundation for the regional Industry department (P.O.R. FESR 2007-2013), focused on the promotion of energy saving, the development of green productions and therefore an all-around concept of sustainability that is environmental, social and economic.

Another out-of-competition section was **Life of Sardinia**, dedicated to Sardinian movies, which included three movies. Among these was 'Protected marine area' (Sardinia, 2017), a documentary by Joyce Helena Saba and Lisa Murru, two absolute beginners who are currently students at the IPSTC (Professional Institute for Commercial and Tourist Services of Santa Teresa Gallura), who had completed the 48-hour film-documentary course organised by the LIFE AFTER OIL Cultural Association and the MiMaciak Association of Cagliari.

Since 2017 **LIFE AFTER OIL IFF** has started a collaboration with the Communication Office for Italy of the European Parliament: this collaboration started the out of competition **Lux Prize section** that included the movie 'My life as a zucchini' (France, 2016) by Claude Barras, an animation particularly suitable for young audiences, which has gained considerable success at numerous international festivals and has been nominated for an Oscar as the best animated film.

The festival took place across several places in Santa Teresa Gallura: the Municipal Library was used as an organizational point, for some screenings and also for one of the side events of the Festival, the book presentation by Ansa's reporter Fabrizio Cassinelli who presented his book "Iran unveiled" with Luca Foschi (war reporter) as interviewer. Movie screenings, both for in and out of competition sections, were held at the Nelson Mandela movie theatre and at Silene Multiservizi at the Maritime Station. The second side event of the Festival, the Natural Dyeing Workshop held by Maurizio Savoldo, was held in the Villamarina square. Some students from Santa Teresa Gallura's IPSTC (Professional Institute for Commercial and Tourist Services of Santa Teresa Gallura) contributed to the festival's organization by providing small help in logistical aspects of the event such as setting up venues for screenings, small assistance to guests etc. This year the final movies selected, out of the 530 received from 74 countries, were in total 70: 49 in competition and 21 out of competition. The movies' budget ranged from £2 million to just \$1. There were a lot of up and coming filmmakers along with renowned authors of the independent film scene: 23 of the movies were debut movies, confirming how one of the peculiarities of **LIFE AFTER OIL IFF** is to give visibility and credit to young authors. 23 were also the movies and visual arts schools of various Europeans and non-Europeans countries from

which some of the movies were received. The movies selected - documentaries, fiction and animations - represented a varied array of directors covering a broad generational range, with many young directors such as the 18-year-old Polish director Jonasz Wiewior, author of 'Infokind', or the American 22-year-old Nikki Ochoa, author of 'Katie'. Many of the filmmakers are now well established in the international independent cinema scene, such as Joakim Demmer, author of 'Dead Donkeys Fear No Hyenas'. The movies talked about topics of great relevance, not only environmental issues and environmental sustainability but also human rights, a topic to which the Festival has always been particularly sensitive.

The attention that **LIFE AFTER OIL IFF** dedicates to young people is not just about authors but also about the public. On the mornings of September 22nd and 23rd 2017 at the Nelson Mandela movie theatre there were about 200 students of primary and secondary schools of the P.F.M. Magnon Public Institute of S.T. Gallura and high school students of the IPSCT Professional Institute for Commercial and Tourist Services of S.T. Gallura. They were not simply spectators, but for them it was also a highly educative experience and active involvement in the Festival, taking part in debates and discussions with the main protagonists of the event.

During the **LIFE AFTER OIL IFF** there were also representatives of the institutions that supported the event: Franco Saba, Mayor of Ottana and Angelo Sini, Mayor of Pattada. There was also a Delegation of the European Parliament (Communication Office for Italy) with which LIFE AFTER OIL co-operated, bringing the LUX Prize to the Festival. At the event there was also a delegation of Italia Nostra, the famous association that since 1955 has been fighting for the protection of the historical, artistic and natural heritage of our country, who assigned a special mention to one of the movies in the competition. There was also a delegation from the Emergency Sassari section, who assigned a special mention in the Human Rights section of the festival.

Links to catalogues of past editions

[LAO IFF 1st edition 2014](#)

[LAO IFF 2nd edition 2015](#)

[LAO IFF 3rd edition 2016](#)

[LAO IFF 4th edition 2017](#)