



La Biennale di Venezia

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**LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA/
75TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
29 AUGUST > 8 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**CHINESE DIRECTOR ZHANG YIMOU TO BE THE RECIPIENT
OF THE 2018 JAEGER-LECOULTRE GLORY TO THE FILMMAKER
AWARD OF THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL**

HIS NEW FILM *YING (SHADOW)* TO BE PRESENTED OUT OF COMPETITION

La Biennale di Venezia and **Jaeger-LeCoultre** announce that the great Chinese director **Zhang Yimou** (*Hero*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, *Ju Dou*; twice winner of the Golden Lion in Venice, in 1992 with *The Story of Qiu Ju* and in 1999 with *Not One Less*) has been awarded the 2018 **Jaeger-LeCoultre Glory to the Filmmaker** of the **75th Venice International Film Festival** (August 29th to September 8th 2018), dedicated to a figure who has left a particularly original mark on contemporary cinema.

The award will be conferred to **Zhang Yimou** on **6 September 2018** in the **Sala Grande** (Palazzo del Cinema), before the world premiere screening Out of Competition of his new film *Ying (Shadow)*.

Regarding this acknowledgment, the Director of the Venice Film Festival **Alberto Barbera** has stated: “**Zhang Yimou** is not only one of the most important directors in contemporary cinema, but with his eclectic production, he has represented the evolution of global language of film, and at the same time, the exceptional growth of Chinese cinema. Zhang Yimou has been a pioneer thanks to his capacity to translate authors, stories and the richness of Chinese culture in general into a unique and unmistakable visual style. His unforgettable debut, *Red Sorghum* (1987), adapted from Nobel award winner Mo Yan, brought him international recognition as one of the most important directors of the Fifth Generation (with Chen Kaige and Tian Zhuangzhuang). Since then, his talent in combining the elegance of form with a universal type of narrative structure has won him important acknowledgments, including two Golden Lions for *The Story of Qiu Ju* (1992) and *Not one less* (1999). At the turn of the century, the martial arts film *Hero* (2002) – his third nomination for an Oscar as best foreign-language film – established him as an icon of the blockbuster-film at the global level, and won him the direction of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Beijing (2008), followed by a series of major productions with American film stars. With *Shadow* (2018), to be presented in its world premiere screening at the 75th Venice International Film Festival, Zhang Yimou returns to martial arts films with the formal elegance and remarkable inventiveness that has always distinguished his cinema”.



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Ying (Shadow) is a martial arts (*wuxia*) film about the conflict between two feudal groups. In China, during the period of the Three Kingdoms (220-280 circa A.D.), an exiled king and his people develop a plot to regain control of their land. The events are told from the points of view of the king, his sister, his commander, the women trapped in the royal palace and a common citizen.

Four times in Competition at the Venice Film Festival – in 1991 with *Raise the Red Lantern*, in 1992 with *The Story of Qiu Ju*, in 1997 with *Keep Cool* and in 1999 with *Not One Less* – winner of two **Golden Lions**, respectively in 1992 and in 1999, a **Silver Lion** in 1991 and a **Coppa Volpi** for Best Actress (Gong Li, in 1992 for *The Story of Qiu Ju*), **Zhang Yimou** is the only director to have won all the most important prizes of the Venice Film Festival in less than ten years.

Jaeger-LeCoultre is for the fourteenth consecutive year a sponsor of the Venice International Film Festival, and for the twelfth of the **Glory to the Filmmaker** award. The prize has been awarded in past years to Takeshi Kitano (2007), Abbas Kiarostami (2008), Agnès Varda (2008), Sylvester Stallone (2009), Mani Ratnam (2010), Al Pacino (2011), Spike Lee (2012), Ettore Scola (2013), James Franco (2014), Brian De Palma (2015), Amir Naderi (2016), Stephen Frears (2017).

The **75th Venice International Film Festival** will be held on the Lido from August 29th to September 8th 2018, directed by **Alberto Barbera** and organized by the **Biennale** chaired by **Paolo Baratta**.

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