



La Biennale di Venezia

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LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA/ 75TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

CHINESE DIRECTOR ZHANG YIMOU RECEIVED JAEGER-LECOULTRE GLORY TO THE FILMMAKER AWARD AT THE 75TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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

Venice, September 6th, 2018 – The great Chinese director **Zhang Yimou** received 2018 **Jaeger-LeCoultre Glory to the Filmmaker Award** of the **75th Venice International Film Festival** in the Sala Grande (Palazzo del Cinema), at world premiere screening Out of Competition of his new film **Ying (Shadow)**. **Alberto Barbera**, Director of the 75th Venice International Film Festival and **Nicolas Siriez**, Chief Marketing Officer of Jaeger-LeCoultre presented **Zhang Yimou** the award and a **personalized Reverso Glory to the Filmmaker**, engraved by Jaeger-LeCoultre artisans with a lion, the symbol of Venice.

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”.

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.

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