

Opening Film

Original Name: Il sol dell'avvenire

English Name: A Brighter Tomorrow (Italian)

Year: 2023 (96 Minutes)

Director: Nanni Moretti

Cast: Nanni Moretti, Margherita Buy, Mathieu Amalric, Silvio Orlando, Jerzy Stuhr, Barbora Bobuleva, Benjamin Stender, Elena Lietti

Festivals:

Cannes: Main Competition 2023, Busan IFF 2023, Seattle IFF 2023, Lima IFF 2023

Synopsis: Giovanni, a prolific, pedantic Roman movie director who has just started shooting 'A Brighter Tomorrow', a new period drama following an Italian Communist branch leader and his secretary who are thrown into existential chaos by the Soviet Union's 1956 invasion of Hungary. But everything, both personal and professional, seems to be conspiring against Giovanni: His 40-year marriage and working relationship with Paola is in crisis, his French co-producer Pierre is on the verge of bankruptcy, and—even before its completion—the commercial prospects of his new film in a rapidly changing market are decidedly uncertain. It may be time for Giovanni to start rethinking his stringent way of doing things.

Closing Film

Original Name: Rapito

English Name: Kidnapped (Italian)

Year: 2023 (125 Min)

Director: Marco Bellocchio

Cast: Paolo Pierobon, Fausto Russo Alesi, Barbara Ronchi, Enea Sala, Leonardo Maltese, Filippo Timi, Fabrizio Gifuni

Festivals:

Cannes: Main Competition 2023, Toronto IFF 2023, Karlovy Vary IFF 2023, New York IFF 2023

Busan IFF 2023

Synopsis: In 1858, in the Jewish quarter of Bologna, the Pope's soldiers burst into the home of the Mortara family. By order of the cardinal, they have come to take Edgardo, their seven-year-old son. The child had been secretly baptized by his nurse as a baby and the papal law is unquestionable: he must receive a Catholic education. Edgardo's parents, distraught, will do anything to get their son back. Supported by public opinion and the international Jewish community, the Mortaras' struggle quickly take a political dimension. But the Church and the Pope will not agree to return the child, to consolidate an increasingly wavering power.