



Taormina | 10th – 14th June 2025

Cannes, Saturday, May 17th, 2025 - The **71st edition** of the **Taormina Film Festival** was presented today at a press conference in Cannes. The festival will take place from **June 10th to 14th, 2025**, directed by **Tiziana Rocca**.

Tiziana Rocca, Artistic Director of the Festival, said, "It is with great enthusiasm that, from the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, we present to the international press the **71st edition of the Taormina Film Festival**, scheduled from June 10th to 14th in the extraordinary setting of the Teatro Antico. It is an edition that celebrates cinema in all its forms, with an open, contemporary gaze that is deeply connected with the magic of the theater and the storytelling through images.

In addition to the presence of **Maestro Scorsese**, for the first time in Taormina, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, we are honored to announce as this year's patroness **Valeria Solarino**, an actress of rare elegance and intensity, a symbol of Italian talent, who will accompany the audience on this journey through screenings, encounters and visions.

Our international jury is made up of extraordinary actors and actresses from the world of cinema: **Da'Vine Joy Randolph**, Oscar-winning actress and jury president; **Rupert Everett**, a fine and iconic performer in British cinema; renowned costume designer **Sandy Powell**, a three-time Oscar winner; **Steven Gaydos**, an influential voice in global film journalism; and two leading actresses of our cinema: **Ilenia Pastorelli** and **Alessandra Mastronardi**. Each of them bringing a unique and original vision.

Opening the Festival will be one of the most anticipated premieres of the season: Len Wiseman's **Ballerina**, a thriller that promises spectacular action and a powerful and charismatic female protagonist. Instead, the first work in competition that we announce is **Warfare**, a beautiful film that takes us back into the shocking reality of modern conflicts.

The Taormina Film Festival continues to be a crossroads of cultures, stories and talents. We are ready to celebrate cinema in one of the most evocative places in the world, and to welcome viewers, artists and dreamers to share together the universal language of emotions."

Martin Scorsese, among the greatest and most influential directors in the history of world cinema, will be a guest of the Festival for the first time and receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award** in the timeless setting of Taormina's Teatro Antico. In his honor, one of the films that have indelibly marked the history of the seventh art will be screened: the

psychological thriller ***Taxi Driver*** (1976), starring Robert De Niro, Jodie Foster and Harvey Keitel, and now considered an absolute staple of world filmmaking.

Elvira Amata, Councillor for Tourism, Sports and Entertainment, said, "We are proud to present a new edition of the Taormina Film Festival, one of the most prestigious cultural events not only in Sicily but in the entire international film scene. This Festival represents a bridge between our identity and the world, a showcase of excellence that celebrates cinema in its artistic, social and spectacular dimensions.

With the Teatro Antico as a unique setting and with an extraordinary jury, this year we strengthen the link between culture, territory and tourism, demonstrating once again how Sicily is a land of beauty, creativity and vision. The Taormina Film Festival is not just an event, it is a symbol: of rebirth, of pride, of talent."

Sergio Bonomo, special commissioner of the Taormina Arte Sicilia Foundation, said, "The Taormina Film Festival is dressed in a new light for the 71st edition, under the wise and competent leadership of Tiziana Rocca, already appreciated, for having successfully directed the prestigious kermesse in the early 2000s.

The Film Competition, side events, the youth campus, conferences, meetings, many prestigious guests are back; in short, the Taormina Film Festival wants to take the leap upward, a role that belongs to an event that-second in Italy in terms of history-has what it takes to return to the international Olympus of film festivals.

I would especially like to thank the Honorable Elvira Amata, Councillor for Tourism, Sports and Entertainment of the Sicilian Region, for her support and convinced collaboration, aimed at the development of the festival and cinematography in Sicily."

The patroness of this edition of the Festival will be **Valeria Solarino**, one of the finest performers in contemporary Italian cinema and theater. From her film debut in the early 2000s to her more mature interpretations, her acting is always guided by authenticity, sensitivity and emotional depth. A true ambassador of Italian female talent.

The **jury** of this year's Taormina Film Festival is composed of leading personalities from the international film scene, each bringing a unique and authoritative perspective. Chairing it is **Da'Vine Joy Randolph**, an Oscar-winning actress acclaimed for her intensity and charisma on the big screen. By her side is **Rupert Everett**, a British film icon known for his elegance and a career filled with iconic roles in theater and film. Legendary costume designer **Sandy Powell**, winner of three Academy Awards, adds her refined vision and impeccable taste in images to the panel. **Steven Gaydos**, vice president of Variety, is one of the most influential voices in the world of film journalism. Representing Italian cinema are **Ilenia Pastorelli**, a Roman actress with an authentic and provocative style, and **Alessandra Mastronardi**, a talented performer who is also appreciated abroad. A jury full of personalities, ready to award the best of contemporary cinema.

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, this edition's poster is dedicated precisely to one of the most iconic films of contemporary Italian cinema, **Giuseppe Tornatore's** film ***Malèna*** starring **Monica Bellucci**.

The Festival this year will be divided into three sections: the **International Feature Film Competition**, the **Out of Competition** and **Special Events** at the Ancient Theater.

Opening the Festival, in the **Out of Competition** section, will be one of the most anticipated premieres of the season: Len Wiseman's ***Ballerina***, an action thriller set in the fictional universe of the famous *John Wick* saga. The film promises spectacular action sequences and stars Ana de Armas. Presenting it to the public will be director Len Wiseman and actor Norman Reedus.

The first work announced in the **Competition** section is ***Warfare***, based on a true story, an immersive and visceral film that takes us to the heart of the shocking reality of modern conflicts. Written and directed by Alex Garland and Ray Mendoza, the cast includes some of Hollywood's most exciting young talent, such as Joseph Quinn, Kit Connor, Will Poulter, Cosmo Jarvis, Charles Melton and Michael Gandolfini. Produced by A24, *Warfare* will be released in Italy by I Wonder Pictures on August 21, 2025.

Another film that will be presented in the **Out of Competition** section is ***Come fratelli***, directed by Antonio Padovan and starring Francesco Centorame, Pierpaolo Spollon, Ludovica Martino, Paola Buratto, Mariana Lancellotti, Simonetta Guarino, Alfonso Santagata, Alessio Praticò, Roberto Citran and the friendly participation of Giuseppe Battiston. The comedy, which deals with the themes of friendship and family with delicacy but at the same time stimulates deep reflections on the meaning of life, is produced by Pepito Produzioni with Rai Cinema and will be released in theaters June 26st distributed by 01 Distribution.



The Taormina Film Festival is promoted and organized by:
Taormina Art Sicily Foundation

Supported by:
Department of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment of the Sicilian Region
Sicily Film Commission
Municipality of Taormina
MiC | Ministry of Culture - General Directorate of Cinema and Audiovisual

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