



*Taormina | June 10 – 14, 2025*

## **CATHERINE DENEUVE AT THE 71<sup>ST</sup> TAORMINA FILM FESTIVAL**

**ICONIC ACTRESS WILL RECEIVE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND PRESENT  
HER LATEST FILM “SPIRIT WORLD”**

*Taormina, May 29, 2025* - It is with great pride that the **71<sup>st</sup> Taormina Film Festival** announces the extraordinary presence of **Catherine Deneuve**, a living legend of world cinema, who will be the star of a gala evening at the **Teatro Antico** in Taormina. The actress will receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for her invaluable contribution to the art of cinema and will present her latest film, ***Spirit World***, directed by Eric Khoo.

With a career spanning more than six decades, **Catherine Deneuve** has embodied the most sophisticated and magnetic face of European cinema. She has worked with the greatest masters of the seventh art, from Luis Buñuel to François Truffaut, Roman Polanski to Jacques Demy, signing memorable interpretations in films such as *Belle de jour*, *Le dernier métro*, *Indochine* (which earned her an Oscar nomination) and *Bernadette*. Elegant, intense and always surprising, Deneuve played roles that expressed as much the fragility as the strength of her leading ladies, making her an absolute benchmark for generations of actors and filmmakers.

***Spirit World***, which will be distributed in **Italian theaters** from **June 26** by **Europictures**, is an intense, sweet and melancholy tale that takes us far afield, to the point of crossing the line between life and death. Directed by Singaporean filmmaker **Eric Khoo** (*12 Stories*, *My Magic*, *Tatsumi*), from a screenplay by his son Eduard, it is a film that bridges Western materialistic culture with the spirituality of Eastern culture, connecting earthly and otherworldly worlds through the Japanese tradition of the *Obon* festival, the Festival of Lanterns, where the meeting and greeting between the living and the Afterlife is celebrated.

“It is an immense honor to welcome Catherine Deneuve to the Taormina Film Festival”, says **Tiziana Rocca**, Artistic Director of the festival. “Her presence is a gift for our audience and for cinema as a whole. With her grace and talent, she has traversed the history of the seventh art, leaving an indelible imprint. Celebrating her career and hosting *Spirit World* in the setting of the Teatro Antico represents a magical moment in this edition.”

“Taormina Film Festival” - says Special Commissioner **Sergio Bonomo** - “once again confirms its status as a benchmark on the international scene, a meeting place for great artists and new cinema, in the name of culture, beauty, and shared emotion”.

Taormina Film Festival is an initiative organized by Fondazione Taormina Arte Sicilia, directly promoted by the Sicily Region's Department of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment, with the support of the MiC, Ministry of Culture - General Directorate for Cinema and Audiovisual.

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