



“Does all this really happen here?” was one of the first comments made by Amir Naderi. The Iranian film director was a guest at the Apulian Regional Film Library at the end of November 2013 on a two-day visit organised by the Quality Film Network which also saw him call in at the Bari Cineport Hub.

The Apulian Regional Film Library re-opened its doors on 7th March 2013 in Via Zanardelli, Bari. In the space of a few months it has distinguished itself as a **focal point for cultural** and learning activity for an enormously varied user group, reflecting an all-encompassing attention towards the audiovisual and new transmedial languages which the Film Library hosts, promotes and condenses.

The vibrant nature of the Film Library can be appreciated simply by taking a look at its numbers: 1,892 registered users since March, **35 exhibitions** organised, **50 workshops and courses** on various subjects, **10 display cases** and 5,000 publications, 34,000 posters, 800 films on DVD and Blu-ray, 2,000 newspapers in over 40 languages, 48 workstations to view films, 9 multimedia workstations, a children’s area and a Wii gaming area.

In addition to these numbers, **numerous guests** have visited the Film Library to participate in exhibitions, workshops and talks such as Alejandro **Jodorowsky**, Enrico **Ghezzi**, Shynia **Tsukamoto**, Roberto **Minervini** and Giovanni **Principalli**, as well as more recent visitors Amir **Naderi**, Daniele **Gaglianone** and Leonardo **Di Costanzo**.

Moreover, thanks to the European Regional Development Fund, in September 2013 a tender was announced for an “expression of interest for the creation and running of cultural projects to promote audiovisual culture for the Cineport Hubs and Film Library” for private enterprises, associations and professionals (long-term programme, Axis IV, procedure 4.3, action 4.3.1 of ERDF 2007-2013) with a total budget of €183.432,28 in addition to VAT. Projects were chosen following a public selection process.

As a result, the **Cineport Hubs and Film Library have set up a completely new, dynamic and progressive system** to promote film and audiovisual culture, acting as welcoming “homes” for both new associations or more established groups who have been able to use these spaces to carry out their initiatives and will continue to do so in 2014. These include the Sguardi IN/Quieti series organised by the Fantarca co-operative or the Levante International Film Festival Cultural Association, which has organised screenings and an exhibition dedicated to Fritz Lang.

There is also an important rapport between the Film Library and the local area: indeed, as a location hosting active cultural events, the new facility has been able to catch the attention of younger users – above all students – who have found the library a place of expression and exchange. As a result, the Film Library programme has included exhibitions proposed by the users themselves (for example, the Dreyer season), by university professors and their students (“Pratolini and Cinema”) or by associations with specific aims such as the anti-violence centre “La Luna nel Pozzo” which organised the exhibition “Visioni di Genere”, running until February 2014.

In line with its objectives and attention to learning, the Film Library has also held beginners’ computer courses for primary school pupils and, in collaboration with Re David School (Bari), has organised animated reading workshops.

It should also be remembered that among the goals of the new film library is its desire to remain open to dialogue and sharing, which can also be expressed through donations of books, magazines and films (many donations have already been accepted). The latest development is the launch of the first **Italian Music Newspaper Library**, which is being assembled thanks to donations from di Luca De Gennaro (MTV).

Open from Monday to Friday, from 10am to 8pm, with longer opening hours available on request, the Film Library offers its users free access to books, magazines and films. Also available on request for loan or viewing are posters for promotional use. Visitors can consult expert staff for any advice on research for films, audiovisual arts, digital language and transmedial subjects.

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Further information is available on the website www.mediateca.it or by phoning 080.540.56.85 / Facebook profile: Mediateca Regionale Pugliese / Twitter account: MediatecaPuglia.