



LUCIA GOTTI VENTURATO

PRESIDENT, SOLE LUNA FESTIVAL

How did you become a programmer?

I worked for five years as assistant to the vice-president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the lower chamber of the Italian Parliament, studying the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries. When I decided to stop, I thought it would be interesting to organise a festival with the aim to become a bridge of understanding between Western and Eastern countries in the Mediterranean Basin.

The documentary film seems to me the best means of comprehending the differences and similarities. I started this venture with the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Sicilian Region and I contacted **Doc Fest** to select the films in competition.

Last year I founded a non-profit association Sole Luna, Un ponte tra le culture and I became the producer of **Sole Luna Festival**.

Where did you find your films for this year's programme?

We contact the producers, the distributors, the festivals, the directors through a call for entry – a mailing list of 3000 contacts.

Do you have to travel to lots of festivals to find films, or does the festival attract submissions?

Not at all. This week only from the call for entry, we received 48 films.

Is it difficult to find quality films, or is the Mediterranean area large enough to supply enough new films each year?

Every year the festival receives hundreds of documentary films. Most of them are of high quality and it is very difficult to make a selection of a maximum of 20 films for the two showcases.

What differentiates your programme from other festivals?

Every edition has new parallel activities. Last year we produced a video-art of Domenico Mangano, and ran a skills-building course, *From Reportage to Documentary*, for a group of Lebanese and Palestinian students.

This year we have opened the festival to music documentaries and contemporary art, and we will be having a Christopher Nupen retrospective of six films including: *REMEMBERING JACQUELINE DU PRÉ* and *ANDRÉS SEGOVIA: THE SONG OF THE GUITAR*. The art programme is a comparison between The Paleolithic Era in Sicily and the Contemporary Avant-garde Art Movement. An archeological study by Prof. Carmelo Montagna and Dott. Massimo Cultraro has demonstrated the incredible refinement and complexity in the architecture of a THOLOS (*cavita' apogea*) of the Paleolithic era. The Gurfa complex presents profound similarities with the work of contemporary artist James Turrell, who has been developing a land-art project in the Roden Crater (Arizona) for several years. The two exhibitions *La Gurfa di Alia* by Alessandro Belgioioso and *Geometrie di Luce* by James Turrell will be open during the week of the festival between July 6 and 12. They will be united into a single catalogue published by Skira in Italian and English. James Turrell will be holding a lecture, "Plato and the light side", on July 11 at Santa Maria dello Spasimo in Palermo.

Also, the entrance to the screenings and events is always free.

What are your goals for the festival?

To become an area of free intellectual and artistic exchange to create a deeper understanding of Mediterranean cultures,