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67th Venice International Film Festival – Competition

LA PASSIONE (THE PASSION)

by Carlo Mazzacurati
Italy, 2010, 35 mm, 106'

**VETERAN HELMER CARLO MAZZACURATI PRESENTS NEW FILM IN
COMPETITION AT VENICE**

Rome, August 18, 2010 – In 1994 Carlo Mazzacurati won a Silver Lion in Venice for his film *IL TORO*. This year he is back in competition with his new feature *LA PASSIONE*.

Director Gianni Dubois (Silvio Orlando) hasn't made a film for five years. Now a hot young TV actress (Cristiana Capotondi) wants him to help her break into movies, giving him a chance to get back in the game and make some money so his agent doesn't have to keep paying his bills. But he can't think of a single good idea and she is piling on the pressure. As bad luck would have it, damaged pipes at the little apartment he owns in a Tuscan village choose that week to burst, destroying a 16thC fresco in the church next door. He is summoned to the village to sort it out and instead of paying for a restoration is blackmailed into directing the town's Passion Play for Easter. He has one week to rehearse, no professionals to help him, a crazy actress en route to hear his "brilliant pitch", a fake broken leg and Jesus has quit in a huff.

LA PASSIONE is a warm-hearted comedy about a man paralyzed by the pressure of expectation who makes some unlikely new friends to help him pull through his crisis.

About the director

Carlo Mazzacurati (born in Milan in 1956) has directed 13 feature films since the 1980s. In 1994, he won the Venice Silver Lion with his film *IL TORO*. He is also the director of several documentaries. He co-produced the documentary *THE ONE MAN BEATLES*, directed by Cosimo Messeri, which was presented in competition at the 4th International Rome Film Festival.

As a screenwriter, he has collaborated with, among others, Daniele Luchetti and Gabriele Salvatores. As an actor, he has appeared in small roles in Nanni Moretti's films *PALOMBELLA ROSSA*, *CARO DIARIO*, and *IL CAIMANO*.