MAJOR GUESTS AND PREMIERES:
LUCCA COMICS & GAMES PRESENTS THE 2026 MOVIE AREA PROGRAMME

Milan, 24 September 2026 – Cinema, television series, animation and the universe of contemporary imagination take centre stage once again in the **Lucca Comics & Games Movie Area**, curated by QMI. In the festival's 60th anniversary year, the programme brings premieres, meetings with Italian and international guests, panels and special screenings to the city. Once again, the programme reaches beyond cinemas and spreads through the squares, pavilions and spaces of the historic centre.

Disney+ returns to Lucca with ***Percy Jackson and the Olympians***, which will take part in the 60th anniversary celebrations of Lucca Comics & Games. For the first time, actors **Walker Scobell**, **Leah Sava' Jeffries** and **Aryan Simhadri** will come to the festival, together with co-creator and executive producer **Jonathan E. Steinberg** and executive producer **Dan Shotz**. The cast and creative team will take part in a dedicated panel featuring the premiere of previously unseen clips from the much-anticipated third season, which debuts exclusively on Disney+ on 20 November.

Sky brings ***Nord Sud Ovest Est – The Legendary Story of 883*** to Lucca. The second season of the Sky Original series by **Sydney Sibilia**, produced by Sky Studios and Groenlandia, will be available exclusively on Sky and streaming only on NOW from 9 October. Following *Hanno ucciso l'Uomo Ragno*, the story of Max Pezzali and Mauro Repetto resumes in 1993, the year of 883's second album. On 30 October, series creator and director **Sydney Sibilia** will be in Lucca with the two stars, **Elia Nuzzolo** and **Matteo Oscar Giuggioli**, to meet audiences at a preview screening of the new season's fifth episode. The world of 883 will also have a home of its own in the city centre, with a dedicated Sky space in **Piazza San Francesco**.

Warner Bros. Pictures brings ***The Cat in the Hat*** to Lucca, the first animated film from Warner Bros. Pictures Animation directed by Alessandro Carloni and Erica Rivinoja, due in Italian cinemas on 5 November. From the wonderfully whimsical world of Dr. Seuss, the iconic Cat comes to the big screen for the first time in an adventure full of magic, mayhem and fun. The film will be presented in Lucca on 31 October by director **Alessandro Carloni**, joined by **Stefano Fresi** and **Herbert Ballerina**, who provide Italian voices for the film. *The Cat in the Hat* will also feature at the **Loggiato Pretorio**, with a space dedicated to the film.

Lucky Red has a particularly rich presence in Lucca, bringing together major international animation and auteur cinema. The Movie Area programme opens with a preview of ***Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom***, the new film from the creators of Wallace and Gromit, due in Italian cinemas for Halloween from 28 October. The occasion is even more special in the year Aardman Studios celebrates its 50th anniversary: added to Lucca Comics & Games' 60 years, that makes 110 years of animation and imagination with honours. Two central figures in the British studio's history will come to Lucca to celebrate: founder **Peter Lord** and director **Matthew Walker**, who will accompany the film at its preview on Wednesday 28 October. On 30 October it will be the turn of ***Look Back***, based on Tatsuki Fujimoto's manga of the same name. Acclaimed at the most recent Venice Film Festival, the film comes to Lucca ahead of its theatrical release on 12 November, together with director **Hirokazu Kore-eda**, who will meet festival audiences after the screening. Another unmissable screening is ***Kiki's Delivery Service***, one of master filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki's masterpieces, returning to cinemas remastered in 4K. Lucky Red will also have a stand at the **Loggiato Pretorio** and an entire area dedicated to **Studio Ghibli**.

At Lucca Comics & Games, fans can visit an **HBO Max** pavilion entirely dedicated to the new HBO Original series *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, coming to HBO Max at Christmas 2026. Designed to transport fans into the magical world of Harry Potter, this immersive experience will feature installations, photo opportunities, elements inspired by the series and many other surprises, offering a closer look at the return to Hogwarts ahead of the eagerly awaited debut.

Animation fans can also discover ***Adventure Time: Side Quests***, the new animated series that takes fans back to the fantastical Land of Ooo with Finn, Jake and their best-loved characters. It arrives on Cartoon Network and streams on HBO Max from 5 October, and will be available to everyone on Boing from 2 November. Fans can return to the unmistakable world of Adventure Time and immerse themselves in the new series through a treasure hunt, an immersive photo call, an exclusive gift and many other surprises. **Nate Cash**, the series showrunner, will make a special appearance in talks, screenings and signing sessions to celebrate Finn and Jake's return and their new adventures in the Land of Ooo.

Paramount+ will be in Lucca with the second season of *Dexter: Resurrection*, out on 30 October and presented to audiences in a special screening preceded by a talk. The series will also come to life in the heart of the city with a pavilion in Piazza Anfiteatro, where fans can immerse themselves in a special Dexter experience celebrating the franchise's 20th anniversary and the release of the new season of Dexter: Resurrection. Younger visitors will also find a giant SpongeBob inflatable in Piazza Real Collegio throughout Lucca Comics & Games, as well as meet-and-greets with costume characters.

Netflix will once again be at Lucca Comics & Games. This year it will celebrate the global phenomenon KPOP DEMON HUNTERS.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Crunchyroll** is taking part in Lucca Comics & Games with a 150-square-metre immersive pavilion in Piazzale Arrigoni dedicated to fan-favourite anime. It will feature interactive installations, exclusive activities and limited-edition merchandise tied to *One Piece*, *Black Clover*, *The Apothecary Diaries* and *Firefly Wedding*. The programme also includes the eagerly awaited Crunchyroll Show, with announcements and news, and a series of exclusive screenings, including the world premiere of the first two episodes of *Shangri-La Frontier Season 3*. Guests, in collaboration with Italian publisher Jundo, include Li Haoling, the Chinese creator and director of *Link Click* and *To Be Hero X*, making his first official appearance in Italy. On Friday 30 October, he will take part in a panel followed by the screening of an exclusive *Link Click* recap film. He will be at the festival on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 October.

Ten days before the Netflix debut of *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners 2*, the anime set in the world of the Cyberpunk 2077 video game, **CD PROJEKT RED** presents the panel *Emotional Damage: How Cyberpunk: Edgerunners 2 Makes You Feel* in Lucca on Friday 30 October. Showrunner **Bartosz Sztybor** and executive producer **Saya Elder** will explore the series and its story world.

Lucca will also host a special screening of ***The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping*** for fans of the saga. The new film in the franchise based on Suzanne Collins's novels arrives in Italian cinemas on 19 November, distributed by **Notorious Pictures**. Directed by Francis Lawrence, it takes audiences back into Panem's history, with a cast bringing together established performers and a new generation of stars. An installation dedicated to the film will also be in **Piazza San Giusto** throughout the festival, allowing visitors to experience its atmosphere.

To celebrate 25 years since its original release, **Universal Pictures** will bring a special screening of ***Fast & Furious*** to Lucca on 28 October. Rob Cohen's cult film launched one of the most beloved action franchises of all time. Ahead of its return to Italian cinemas from 29 October, festival audiences can rediscover Paul Walker and Vin Diesel's first adventure on the big screen, amid street racing, loyalty and adrenaline on the streets of Los Angeles.

In 2026, the Movie Area once again lights up its evenings with **"Lucca Comics & Games Horror Nights"**, a programme devoted to genre cinema that brings together premieres, special screenings and meetings with filmmakers and guests. The line-up includes ***Godzilla Minus Zero***, ***It Ends***, ***The Nameless Ballad***, ***Arachnid – Deadly Web*** and ***Popeye's Revenge***, for an event that has become a cult favourite among genre fans.

Plaion Pictures has chosen Lucca Comics & Games to give Italian fans the spectacular return of the king of monsters: ***Godzilla Minus Zero*** will have its Italian premiere on Saturday 31 October at Cinema Astra.

Following the previous film's historic Oscar® win for Best Visual Effects, director Takashi Yamazaki returns to direct *Godzilla Minus Zero*, produced by TOHO and the first Japanese film shot for IMAX®. Coming to Italian cinemas from 12 November, *Godzilla Minus Zero* promises to take the franchise to a new level of spectacle without losing its emotional depth, as humanity faces a new threat looming over the fragile peace it has only just regained.

I Wonder Pictures, the distributor that brought titles such as *Backrooms*, *Marty Supreme* and *Everything Everywhere All At Once* to cinemas, returns to Lucca Comics & Games. The I Wonder pavilion, a 150-square-metre space in **Piazza San Giovanni** in the heart of the historic centre, will offer festival visitors a new immersive experience whose details will be revealed soon. On Wednesday 28 October, Horror Nights will also feature a special screening of ***IT ENDS***, Alexander Ullom's much-anticipated and unsettling feature debut. Already hailed by critics as one of the most promising voices in new genre cinema, this spare, disquieting work turns a nighttime journey and a seemingly endless road into an uncanny physical and mental space.

Minerva Pictures, together with **FilmClub Distribuzione** and **Digital United Studios**, returns to Lucca Comics & Games with four premieres spanning horror, dark fantasy and adventure. Three titles will join the Horror Nights programme: ***The Nameless Ballad***, the new film by **Federico Zampaglione**, who will present it in Lucca with co-writer **Barbara Baraldi** ahead of its theatrical release from 5 November; ***Arachnid – Deadly Web*** (Crawlers), a creature feature directed by Ángel Gómez Hernández and starring Matilda Lutz, set in a residential complex overrun by poisonous spiders; and ***Popeye's Revenge*** by William Stead, an irreverent horror reimagining of the iconic Popeye that will stream on Scream Hub after its premiere. ***Momo*** by Christian Ditter offers an entirely different atmosphere: a new adaptation of Michael Ende's celebrated novel, starring Martin Freeman as Master Hora and coming to cinemas from 21 January 2027.

Also receiving its Italian premiere in Lucca is ***Hope***, the horror thriller directed by Na Hong-jin in which a mysterious creature spreads chaos and turns a hunting trip into a nightmare. One of the three biggest Korean box-office successes of the year, the film brings together an international cast including Hwang Jung-min, Zo In-sung, Hoyeon, Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Taylor Russell and Cameron Britton. Distributed by **MUBI**, it comes to Italian cinemas from 5 November.

The films on the programme also include ***Caro Mondo Crudele***, the new film by Niccolò Falsetti and Francesco Turbanti. Directed by Falsetti and produced by dispàrte, Mompracem and Fandango with Rai Cinema, it tells the story of Giovanna, a twelve-year-old with an irrepressible imagination living in the Maremma in the late 1990s. The film is enriched by animated sequences in Zerocalcare's unmistakable style—he created the concept and character designs for the animated characters—and an original score by Giancane. The screening will be presented in Lucca by **Falsetti** and **Turbanti** together with **Zerocalcare**.

Ratigher's cult graphic novel comes to the big screen as ***Le ragazzine stanno perdendo il controllo. La società le teme. La fine è azzurra***, Pierluca Di Pasquale's debut feature starring Sara Ciocca and Anita Serafini. At its heart are two teenagers brought together by an unusual fascination with medical tests, who find in their friendship and in science the strength to resist those at school and at home who want to tame them. Its surprise ending cannot be described in words, only with a colour: blue. The screening will be introduced by **Ratigher**, author of the original comic and co-writer of the film with Di Pasquale.

The Movie Area will pay tribute to comic-book master Frank Miller with a screening of ***Frank Miller: American Genius***, the documentary written, produced and directed by Silenn Thomas. It traces nearly 50 years in the career of the creator of iconic works including *Daredevil*, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*, *Batman: Year One* and *Sin City*. Friends, collaborators and admirers—including Robert Rodriguez, Jessica Alba, Jim Lee, Zack Snyder and Stan Lee—reflect on his creative journey. The screening will be made especially memorable by the presence in Lucca of **Frank Miller** himself and director **Silenn Thomas**.

Toei Animation Europe will be at the festival with ***One Piece*** and ***PreCure***, featuring screenings, meetings and activities for audiences. **Baluardo Santa Maria** will host the refreshed One Piece pavilion, dedicated to the Elbaph arc, with activities, photo opportunities and a shop selling exclusive Toei Animation and Bandai Namco products. This year One Piece will also have a space in the KIDS area, with activities and photo opportunities for younger visitors. PreCure also returns to Lucca Comics & Games with the Western premiere of ***Star Detective PreCure – The Movie!***, scheduled for Friday 30 October, with a repeat screening on Saturday 31 October, in the presence of producer **Hibiki Minagawa**. At the Family Palace, children can take part in Curetto Agency activities, meet the PetitCure Mofurun mascot and discover exclusive products from Tokyo's Pretty Store.

Dynit will bring a highly anticipated film to Lucca Comics & Games this year: ***Gintama the Movie 2026: Yoshiwara in Flames***. The Yoshiwara arc, one of the series' most intense and beloved storylines, comes to Italian cinema screens for the first time in CinemaScope. Director **Naoya Ando** and producer **Takashi Maekawa** will also be in Lucca to meet audiences at the Italian premiere, scheduled for Friday 30 October.

Also on the programme is ***RIFT – The Future Is at Stake***, a documentary game that turns climate change into a role-playing game. Written by Claudio Di Biagio and Andrea Gallo, directed by Di Biagio and produced by Infinity LAB—Mediaset Infinity's permanent initiative supporting independent filmmakers and production companies—it follows four science communicators through near-future scenarios. They confront environmental crises and bring useful tools and insights back to the present. The screening will be presented in Lucca by **Claudio Di Biagio**, who also serves as the game's master. **Mediaset Infinity** will also be present with a "time machine" devoted to cult Mediaset content, where visitors can test their knowledge in a mini-game about the history of cinema and television.

On 1 November, Lucca Comics & Games will also present ***La mia anima ha fretta***, Giuseppe Contarino's debut documentary, which has already won two international awards. The film tells the story of Nicolas Gentile, a pastry chef, father and geologist who, after a diagnosis that profoundly changes his relationship with time, decides to pursue a seemingly impossible dream: building a real Hobbit Shire in Abruzzo, inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien's universe.

Rai Cultura celebrates the 60th anniversary of Lucca Comics & Games with ***60 volte Lucca: L'avventurosa storia di Lucca Comics & Games***, a special written and directed by Enrico Platania that retraces the festival's long history. Told through the memories of people who now work on the event and valuable contributions from Rai Teche, it follows the event from the founding of the "International Comics Salon" in 1966 to its transformation into a gathering that brings together comics, animation, illustration, cinema, entertainment, games and video games. The special explores the evolution of Lucca and its audience, alongside profound changes in the Italian and international cultural imagination. "60 volte Lucca" will air on Rai5 late on Tuesday 27 October, on the eve of the festival, and will then be available on RaiPlay

We believe in #Community #Inclusion #Respect #Discovery #Gratitude #Lucca60

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