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PRESS RELEASE

2023 Taobuk Festival SeeSicily: Freedoms

**From 15 to 19 June in Taormina
the 13th edition of the festival
conceived and directed by Antonella Ferrara**

With the support of the **Sicilian Region** and **Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, ENIT - National Tourism Agency**. With the contribution of the **City of Taormina, Fondazione Taormina Arte Sicilia, Parco Archeologico Naxos Taormina, University of Catania, University of Messina**. In collaboration with the **Representation in Italy of the European Commission**. With the patronage of the **Conference of Italian University Rectors, Centro per il Libro e la Lettura**. Main Partner **TIM**, Gold Partner **ENI**
Musical Co-Producer **Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania**

"Singular freedom exists only as a plurality of freedoms." The words of Benedetto Croce emphasise the multiplying effect of an ideal that shapes and evolves together with changes in society and customs. A phenomenon that in today's world, which is still marked by profound inequalities, acquires even more relevance. The 13th edition of the **Taobuk Festival SeeSicily** revolves around the issue of freedom and its mapping. It is no coincidence that it is entitled '**Freedoms**'; those recognised and above all those denied, in a space-time mapping whose coordinates will be traced by the most authoritative Italian and international writers, intellectuals, scientists and artists.

The event, conceived and directed by **Antonella Ferrara**, will have a new name this year: the original logo will be combined with that of the tourist promotion project conceived by the **Sicilian Region** to renew the island's fascination for travellers. This strengthens the cooperation between **SeeSicily** and **Taobuk** for a festival with an international scope, which last year was honoured by the presence of the President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella.

"Taobuk 2023 will explore the creative power, the force of aggregation, the dignity and the opportunities that freedom and freedoms grant to free man, in guaranteeing him the inviolability of his body, his home, his privacy, and in assuring him the ability to express himself and the independence of the people to which he belongs," says Antonella Ferrara, who adds: "Among the reasons that led to the choice of the concept is precisely the urgency, dictated by the historical moment in which we live, to open a multi-voice dialogue on the historical process of a fundamental conquest of civilisation: the overturning of freedom from the privilege of some classes to a status that is no longer favoured, but recognised to everyone from birth on the basis of equality and brotherhood of men.

A perspective that was unknown until the Enlightenment, from which it originated, and which is still in progress today. The condition of free men is therefore far from being taken for granted. A minority of humankind is in fact guaranteed the enjoyment of fundamental

rights. An ambition that continues to be marked by the heroic sacrifices to pursue it. This is still happening today, as the tragic events of Iranian women show'.

Taobuk is a prestigious showcase of the Italian spirit and of Sicily's material and immaterial heritage: over 200 events with renowned guests including writers, journalists, directors, artists and personalities from the worlds of entertainment and science.

Over five days, **from 15 to 19 June**, in the most significant venues in Taormina, guests from 30 countries around the world are called upon to explore the 'meridians of freedom' from multiple perspectives and disciplines, creating an observatory focused on the dynamics of the present and perspectives on the future.

A festival with a multidisciplinary approach that celebrates literature in relation to the other arts and sciences. An agora of thought achieving its climax with the presentation of the **Taobuk Awards**, once again delivered to high-profile figures who will enrich the roll of honour of the 48 winners of past editions. Among them Nobel Prize winners Svetlana Aleksievič, Mario Vargas Llosa, Orhan Pamuk, Olga Tokarczuk, Giorgio Parisi, and other writers such as Paul Auster, Michel Houellebecq, Emmanuel Carrère, David Grossman, Amos Oz, Abraham Yehoshua.

The Taobuk Awards for Literature 2023 go to three female writers: the French Annie Ernaux, 2022 Nobel Prize for Literature, the Iranian Azar Nafisi and the American Joyce Carol Oates, three female figures, far in their human and artistic journey yet similar in their active commitment to the full emancipation of women. They all have drawn inspiration from their autobiographical experience to transfer it into the story of the social and collective constraints that shape existence. The prize-winners will give three keynote lectures.

Annie Ernaux, who has always been at the forefront of many battles for gender equality, has signed masterpieces such as *The Years*, *Happening*, *The Young Man*, *A Man's Place*. For her, writing even represents a 'political act' to become aware of what birth privilege or gender membership can represent in patriarchal society. At the festival she will give the lecture **'Shared autobiography to unveil social constraints'**.

Azar Nafisi is a witness of the current times, unyielding in her stance for the liberation of women in Iran, victims of continuous harassment. Author of bestsellers such as *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, *Things I've Been Silent About* and *The Republic of Imagination*, because of her fierce opposition to all forms of literary censorship, she had to choose exile in the United States to escape persecution by the ayatollahs' regime. At the festival she will give the lecture **'The Freedom of Freedoms: The Right to Imagination'**, in dialogue with Barbara Stefanelli, deputy director *Il Corriere della Sera*.

Joyce Carol Oates, a multifaceted and prolific American author and intellectual, in novels, short stories, poems, plays and essays has explored uncomfortable issues such as domestic violence, oppression and the commodification of women in a society driven by power and money. Several times finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and winner in 2019 of the Jerusalem Prize, awarded to writers whose work relates to issues of human freedom and society. She will give a lecture entitled **'Beyond the depths of plutocracy and oppression'**. She will also preview at Taobuk her latest book *Babysitter*, which is published in Italy by La nave di Teseo.

The 2023 **Taobuk Award for Science** is given to National Geographic writer and journalist **David Quammen**, whose extensive work of popularisation took on planetary significance in 2020, on the occasion of the Covid pandemic, when his book *Spillover*:

Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic, written in 2012 and published in 2017 by Adelphi, shot to the top of the sales charts. At Taobuk Quammen will be the protagonist of a very significant event on health and freedom and the role of scientific popularisation.

Science will also be honoured with the Taobuk Da Vinci Award, presented to personalities who have distinguished themselves in the medical-scientific field. This year it goes to: two Nobel laureates, the Japanese **Shinya Yamanaka** (Nobel Prize 2012 for Medicine) and the American **Gregg Leonard Semenza** (Nobel Prize 2019 for Medicine and Physiology); the Israeli **Tal Dvir**, an expert in biotechnology; and **Camillo Ricordi**, a world specialist in the field of transplantation for the treatment of diabetes.

The 2023 **Taobuk Awards** will be presented on **Saturday 17 June** during the now traditional **Taobuk Gala** that the festival organises at the Teatro Antico in Taormina. During the evening-event hosted by Antonella Ferrara and Massimiliano Ossini - broadcast on 24 June on Rai Uno and on Rai Italia in 174 countries- Italian cinema will also be honoured with the director **Marco Bellocchio**, the film editor **Francesca Calvelli** and the actress **Valeria Golino**. Together with them, the artist **Giuseppe Penone**, the Sicilian singer-songwriter and writer **Levante** and **Giulia Staccioli**, choreographer and founder of the **Katakò** dance company, whose dancers will be among the stars of the show, will also receive the Taobuk Award.

Also an award-winner and a much-awaited guest is the violinist and composer **David Garrett**, who on 16 June will launch his autobiography *Se solo sapessi* (Baldini+Castoldi), an intimate diary in which he recounts his childhood and the nature of the crossover genre of which he was a forerunner, mixing classical music, rock, and pop. The following day, at the Taobuk Gala, the German-born, naturalised American musician will perform with the Symphony Orchestra of **Catania's Teatro Massimo Bellini** conducted by **Maestro Gianna Fratta**. The Festival will welcome the artist again on Sunday 18 June for the preview launch of the '**David Garrett Trio ICONIC Tour**' together with Franck van derHeijden (guitar) and Rogier van Wegberg (bass).

For the first time, the eclectic French writer **Daniel Pennac** will be a guest at the Festival. The author will launch *Capolinea Malaussène* (Einaudi), the final chapter of the famous cycle, and with Neapolitan actor and theatre director Pako Ioffredo he will also propose two pieces from his latest show *Dal sogno alla scena*.

Now and always, freedom: voices from literature to read the present

The Festival opens with some homages to the great literature of our time: starting with the famous novel *Todo Modo* by **Leonardo Sciascia**. The meeting, led by Alfio Bonaccorso, the Festival's Executive Director, is dedicated to the theatrical version of the novel, which is returning to the stage after thirteen years, curated by the writer's biographer **Matteo Collura** and directed by **Fabrizio Catalano** (Sciascia's nephew). Scenes from Elio Petri's film taken from *Todo Modo* and television interviews with Sciascia on the subject will be shown.

Three years after his death, in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes and the Spanish Embassy in Italy, the great Chilean writer **Luis Sepúlveda**, who was the first recipient of the Taobuk Award (in 2014), will be remembered.

Massimo Vigliar, film producer and author of *Rincorrendo le storie*. **Luis Sepúlveda un amico** (Guanda), hosts the meeting featuring Chilean poet **Carmen Yáñez**, wife of the writer and author of *Un amore fuori dal tempo*. **La mia vita con Lucho** (Guanda), and photographer **Daniel Mordzinski**, a great friend of Sepúlveda and author of *Hotel Chile* (Guanda), which collects snapshots of the places that have had special significance in the author's life.

On the one hand a passionate love story made up of shared debates and ideals, on the other a journey through the personal, ethical and existential geography of a free writer.

With an introduction by **Juan Carlos Reche Cala**, director of the Instituto Cervantes in Palermo.

Taobuk also pays homage to another great 20th century writer, on the centenary of his birth: **Italo Calvino** - who offered an extraordinary manifesto of freedom in the trilogy *Our Ancestors*, which he defined as 'three degrees of approximation to freedom'. The tribute will be paid to him, in collaboration with TIM, by Maria Chiara Carrozza, president of the CNR, and space architect Valentina Sumini in the meeting **'Invisible cities. A Journey into the present.'**

Freedom is a duty, before being a right, as Oriana Fallaci wrote. Taobuk 2023 gathers stories of civil commitment and social development projects for a **culture of freedom**.

War spills blood, sows hatred, generates terror, deprives humanity. The man of war, Vladimir Putin, who is he really? What lies behind the conflict in Ukraine? What is really happening in Russia? Two witnesses reflect on the conflict in **Ukraine** and the urgency of freedom: **Nicolai Lilin**, pseudonym of Nicolai Verjbitkii, an Italian writer of Russian origin, with *La guerra e l'odio* (Piemme) and **Vera Politkovskaya**, daughter of Anna, the Russian journalist of Ukrainian origin murdered in 2006, with *Mia madre l'avrebbe chiamato guerra* (Rizzoli).

Giovanni Chinnici, the son of the magistrate Rocco Chinnici, the father of the anti-mafia, murdered on 29 July 1983, launches his book *Trecento giorni di sole* (Mondadori) and tells the story of the magistrate who sacrificed his life in the name of freedom and the impact that that tragedy had on him, who was just nineteen years old.

It is a hymn to freedom and at the same time a ruthless historical reconstruction of colonialism and the slave trade, the latest novel by the great Spanish writer and lawyer **Ildefonso Falcones**, author of the bestseller *La cattedrale del mare* (Longanesi). On 16 June, in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy in Italy and the Instituto Cervantes in Palermo, Falcones will speak about his latest historical novel, *Schiava della libertà* (Longanesi), the extraordinary epic of two courageous women looking for justice and freedom between 19th century Cuba and present-day Madrid. A novel that has freedom at its heart as the supreme ideal to fight for, yesterday as today.

Inside great cinema

This year's guests at the festival are two great and beloved Italian writers: **Marco Missiroli** and **Niccolò Ammaniti**, who will dialogue with literature critic **Luca Beatrice** about the main characters of their latest novels, at the core of complex family dynamics and always poised between freedom and independence. *Avere tutto* (Einaudi) by Marco Missiroli is a novel about the passions that make us alive and the obsession of possession. *La vita intima* (Einaudi) by Niccolò Ammaniti is a sarcastic fresco of contemporary society that thinks it is increasingly free and instead finds itself increasingly enslaved: of image, reputation, and social networks.

A journey behind the scenes of **Federico Fellini's** *Otto e mezzo* and **Luchino Visconti's** *Il Gattopardo* is the one proposed by **Francesco Piccolo**, with his book *La bella confusione* (Einaudi), which leads the reader through the visions of two directors as distant as they are similar, joined by their creative genius, freedom of expression and unmistakable stylistic signature, crossing an era full of events. An encounter that, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the release of Visconti's film, compares two masterpieces of Italian cinema.

And cinema will again be at the core of two masterclasses, curated by Federico Pontiggia and held by three protagonists of cinema, Taobuk Award winners.

In "**Scrivere per immagini**" director **Marco Bellocchio** and editor **Francesca Calvelli** compare two jobs that are necessary for the construction of a film. The film direction and film editing shot run on the same track, creating a magic that breaks down barriers to welcome the viewer's vision.

"**Prendersi (del)le libertà**" is the masterclass starring **Valeria Golino**, a multifaceted actress and director who starts from her latest work, *L'arte della Gioia (The Art of Joy)*, based on the book of the same name by **Goliarda Sapienza**, to give voice to her personal vision of freedom and that of the poetess who made her revolutionary life a hymn of freedom.

Freedom is participation

A specific focus will be given on the historical and conceptual evolution of freedom. If, in fact, it is considered a natural right by democratic Constitutions, among which that of the Italian Republic, which celebrates its 75th anniversary, in many other nations its recognition still remains a privilege for a few groups and categories.

Highlighting the point of rupture between theory and practice, between the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and their concrete application, former magistrate **Gherardo Colombo**, in *Anticostituzione* (Garzanti) provocatively rewrites the Constitutional Charter, unmasks its failed promises, and illuminates its blind spots, in order to shed new light on the founding document of our civil life.

The current Minister of Justice **Carlo Nordio**, author of *Justice* (Liberilibri), in dialogue with **Elvira Terranova**, journalist for the press agency *AdnKronos*, reflects on the concept of justice in history and the need for a reform of criminal law in a distinctly accusatory sense. The law, *ius*, founds *iustitia* and a 'fair' society - which guarantees respect for the fundamental freedoms of the individual - can only be, conforming to the etymology, a society that applies the law.

Article 21 of our Constitution states: 'Everyone has the right to express his or her thoughts freely by word, writing and any other means of dissemination. The press cannot be subject to authorisation or censorship'. So what horizons lie ahead for the protection of a fundamental right such as freedom of the press, the basis of democratic life? Among the figures who will discuss the issue: **Michele Ainis**, member of the Competition and Market Authority; **Antonio Di Bella**, RAI; **Luciano Fontana**, *Corriere della Sera* editor-in-chief; **Carlo Mandelli**, Mondadori Media S.p.A. Managing Director; **Manuela Moreno**, TG2 Deputy Chief Foreign Editor; **Lino Morgante**, President and Director of the GDS SES publishing group; **Agnese Pini**, director of the Monrif group's daily newspapers.

The events on freedom of the press continues with *Volevo solo fare il giornalista- La storia di Alessandro Bozzo*, a raw and dramatic monologue interpreted by **Salvo Piparo**, with music by **Michele Piccione**, based on the book by **Lucio Luca** *Quattro centesimi a riga* (Zolfo Editore).

100 years since the birth of the CNR

Taobuk celebrates the **100th anniversary of the birth of the CNR** (National Research Council) with two events that will take us into the future and into space, organised by journalist **Massimo Sideri**, a member of the Festival's Scientific Committee. Starting with a journey into notes and numbers, two languages of nature, we will discuss upon the theme of **biodiversity**, which in Italy, thanks to the rewriting of Article 9, has also become a constitutional value. How can we defend it for the new generations?

We will be helped to understand this by a great violinist, **Alessandro Quarta**, who will give his view in words and music, together with the words of scientist **Maria Chiara Carrozza**, president of the CNR. While the philosopher of science **Telmo Pievani** will show us how science can help defend biodiversity, starting from the Palermo Hub of the NBFC National Biodiversity Future Centre.

The second event, under the patronage of **TIM**, Main Partner of the Festival for the fifth year, will see robotics and artificial intelligence expert **Maria Chiara Carrozza**, TIM Chief Enterprise & Innovative Solutions Officer **Elio Schiavo**, and space architect **Valentina Sumini** discuss the cities of the future, invisible cities, as Italo Calvino said, visionary yet real places that we are shaping with many choices: some clear, such as the necessary energy transition, others more elusive, such as our own vision of the future of humanity. From the dialogue, clues will emerge to understand what the world in which we move is like, what our children's world will be like, and what choices we have to make today.

The future of science

Science is also a compass to orient ourselves in nature and its changes. This is explained by **Roberto Battiston**, full professor of experimental physics at the University of Trento, author of several scientific publications, to whom the asteroid '21256 *Robertobattiston*' was dedicated in 2017. As he recounts in *L'alfabeto della natura. La lezione della scienza per interpretare la realtà* (Rizzoli), nature cannot be cheated, because it proceeds according to fundamental, absolute and unquestionable laws that rule the phenomena surrounding us. Precisely for this reason, only thinking in scientific terms allows us to understand and explain a complex reality that presents us with enormous challenges, such as the environmental issue.

Internationally, the Space Economy has started a growth that promises to continue for a long time: what are the prospects? What are the opportunities? Some of the protagonists of the aerospace sector discuss this in a round table, hosts by Roberto Battiston: astronaut **Paolo Nespoli**; Vice President Exploration and Science Domain TAS –I **Walter Cugno**; ALTEC Chairman **Fabio Grimaldi**; ALTEC Chief Executive Officer **Vincenzo Giorgio**; Space Office of Palazzo Chigi **Mauro Piermaria** and CEO of Thales Alenia Space **Massimo Comparini**.

The Taobuk Festival, in collaboration with **the University of Messina**, is promoting the third edition of the **International Study Conference 'Science towards a Revolutionary Future'**.

The future of our societies and universities cannot be based solely on economic aspects, but will have to measure itself against the profound cultural, geopolitical and technological evolution taking place on the planet. It is now common practice to articulate the university's tasks according to the formula of the Missions, with the aim of uniting the traditional

training and research with the territory, in order to create a university community capable of enhancing the differences of the society and responding to the changing needs that arise over time. As Pope Francis stated, the university is the "*place where the culture of proximity is developed*". Speakers at the conference include: **Salvatore Cuzzocrea**, Rector of the University of Messina and CRUI President; **Antonella Ferrara**, President and Artistic Director of Taobuk; **Carmen Mortellaro**, Unicamillus University and Taobuk Scientific Area Curator; **Francesco Priolo**, Rector University of Catania; **Massimi Midiri**, Rector University of Palermo; **Francesco Tomasello**, Rector Kore University.

Freedom is something that touches all branches of knowledge, including **science**, which has officially become a **fundamental human right** thanks to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In the document stating the right to science, the first point is based precisely on the idea that science as an instrument that can guarantee an open, liberal and democratic society. Protecting the possibility to do research does not only mean protecting the right of scientists and researchers, but above all our right to benefit from it. Against the potential negative consequences of technology in terms of security, there is still a lack of clear rules. At Taobuk, top-level scientists will reflect on the latest frontiers of science such as biotechnology and innovative treatment tools based on genetic material, stem cells and tissues: topics intimately linked to the concept of freedom and the boundaries that society, but also researchers themselves, build today around scientific research.

Four keynote lectures are scheduled: Japan's **Shinya Yamanaka** (2012 Nobel Prize winner for Medicine) will speak about the transformation of human cells into stem cells and the 'new frontier of medical research between expectations and promise'; American **Gregg Leonard Semenza** (2019 Nobel Prize winner for Medicine and Physiology) will explain the role of hypoxia in physiology and medicine in scientific research; Israeli biotechnology expert **Tal Dvir** will explain the use of 3D printing of the heart using the patient's own cells; the last lecture will be given by Italian **Camillo Ricordi**, the world's leading expert in the field of transplantation, who will talk about cutting-edge protocols for pancreatic regeneration to treat diabetes. The four scientists will be honoured with the **2023 Taobuk Da Vinci Award**.

Access to treatment and the sustainability of **advanced therapies**, issues of great importance for medicine in the near future, also in terms of economic impact, are at the centre of a **round table**, following the lectures, introduced by **Carmen Mortellaro**, and attended by **Giulio Pompilio**, Scientific Director of the Monzino Cardiology Centre and President of the OTA Scientific Commission; **Franco Locatelli**, Director of the Department of Oncohaematology at the Bambino Gesù Paediatric Hospital in Rome; **Lorenzo Piemonti**, Head of the Operative Unit of Regenerative Medicine and Transplantation at the San Raffaele Hospital and Director of the Diabetes Research Institute.

News in the visual arts section

In order to celebrate the deep cultural ties between Mediterranean traditions and civilisations, this year the Festival collaborates with a prestigious international organisation, the **MAXXI Museum** in Rome, with **La bella Terra**, a solo exhibition by **Isabella Ducrot**. The internationally renowned Italian artist (she has exhibited in Rome, Milan, Paris, Berlin and New York) has been involved in applied art and the study of textiles for years. With this exhibition, she poetically recounts the themes of travel, myth and landscape, with a vision that emphasises the beauty of life. The themes and lines

present in the artist's research are key elements in strengthening MAXXI's and Taobuk's gaze on the Mediterranean. The exhibition, in collaboration with the Naxos Taormina Archaeological Park, will be inaugurated on 16 June at **Palazzo Ciampoli** by the President of the MAXXI Museum in Rome **Alessandro Giuli** and will remain open to the public until 27 August.

Velasco Vitali *Le Grand Bleu*, an exhibition inspired by the 1988 film of the same name with Luc Besson, which opened the 41st Cannes Film Festival and which was filmed in Taormina (as clearly shown in the railway station and the old town), will be opened at the **Former Chiesa del Carmine** in Taormina on 15 June.

With an eclectic approach embracing sculpture, painting, engraving and illustration, Velasco Vitali's artistic practice has always investigated the most problematic aspects of the human condition through metaphors.

With forty works on paper in different formats and techniques (oil, tempera, watercolour, Indian ink, etching) created from 2010 to the present, *Le Grand Bleu*, curated by Luca Beatrice, revolves around the concept of freedom and the power of the Mediterranean. Velasco Vitali also signs the visual of this edition of the festival, a hot air balloon that soars upwards: "The hot air balloon," explains the artist, "is the first project of flight, still existing and practised today. A metaphor for freedom and an invitation to look at the world from above'.

Outside the frame.

Giuseppe Penone. The Breath of the World

As the symbol of the 2023 edition, Taobuk's Contemporary Art format, **Fuori cornice**, curated by Roberta Scorrane and Antonella Ferrara, has chosen the painter, sculptor and photographer **Giuseppe Penone**, who will also be awarded the Taobuk Award. He is one of the main artists of the *Arte Povera* current. His story is made by nature and humanity because Penone, by leaving his mark on trees and working on river stones or the intimate life of leaves, has given a new meaning to the idea of sculpture. His are *universal gestures*, such as the selection of works recently included in the exhibition curated by Francesco Stocchi at the Galleria Borghese. In dialogue with masters of art such as Bernini and Canova, the exhibition links up with one of the most intimate questions of the era we are living in: *we are the planet*. On the programme, a conversation between Giuseppe Penone, Francesco Stocchi and Roberta Scorrane.

Sicily, the land of art, is on display in all its beauty. Art historian **Sergio Troisi** recounts the extraordinary wealth of the island's artistic heritage, taking us on a narrative and iconographic journey through Sicily's architectural history from its origins to the 20th century, filling a publishing gap of some 50 years. The 13-chapter volume '**Art in Sicily**' will be launched on 15 June with **Claudio Gulli**, curator of the Palazzo Butera Museum.

With its third edition, the **international architecture competition** is back, in collaboration with the magazine **Abitare**, which proposes a reflection on the **future of the city**, inspired by the work of **Italo Calvino**. The architectural design competition is inspired by the work of this writer who developed important reflections on the meaning of living. From *Invisible Cities* to *If on a winter's night a traveler* Calvino has never ceased to question the relationships that habitat weaves with place, memory and desire.

And among the five qualities needed in the next millennium, enumerated in his *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*, the most suitable to be transposed into architecture and to represent a planet-friendly future is undoubtedly lightness. It is therefore on the basis of Calvino's suggestions that participants were asked to conceive an urban intervention in Taormina, Piazza IX Aprile. The winners will be awarded prizes on 19 June during the event dedicated to the **city** and **space** with **Sara Banti**, editor-in-chief of **Abitare**, **Gianfranco Tuzzolino**, architect and professor at the University of Palermo, and architects **Alfonso Femia** and **Paolo De Marco**.

And more... Books and pages of freedom

A portrait of **Giuseppe Prezzolini**, the longest-lived and most prolific Italian intellectual of the last century, is traced by Culture Minister **Gennaro Sangiuliano**, author of *Giuseppe Prezzolini. L'anarchico conservatore* (Mursia), who will dialogue with the journalist and writer **Pietrangelo Buttafuoco**. The lesson of Prezzolini, a personality who could not stand regimentation, the lure of fashion, the flattery of power, and tenaciously opposed all this with the intelligence of a free spirit, is extremely relevant today.

Another compelling biography of an intellectual who marked the Short Century is that of **Gabriele D'Annunzio** by historian **Giordano Bruno Guerri**, president of the Fondazione Il Vittoriale degli Italiani :*D'Annunzio. La vita come opera d'arte* (Rizzoli).

The point of view is that of the D'Annunzio's widow, who casts her gaze on a poet who led an adventurous and passionate existence, an *influencer* ante litteram who turned his life into a work of art.

Antonio Spadaro, Jesuit and editor of the magazine *La Civiltà Cattolica*, in *Una trama divina* (Marsilio) restores the figure of Christ with a new language: what things can the account of his events still suggest, between reconstruction, fantasy, devotion?

Mattia Insolia, author of *Cieli in fiamme* (Mondadori) will talk about intergenerational conflicts and adolescents' search for their own identity and thus freedom.

Elisabetta Darida will launch her novel *Intolleranze elementari* (L'Erudita) in a dialogue with **Giovanni Moschella**, deputy vice chancellor of the University of Messina. The book, twenty stories of intolerances inflicted or suffered, testify the liberating force that allows everyone to rise again after a pain.

Cristina Cassar Scalia launches her novel *Il re del gelato* (Einaudi). A detective story that delves into the minds of the characters, reconstructs stories that have at their core Vanina Guarrasi, a vice-police officer from Palermo who has moved to Catania, and a Sicily that is increasingly free of old preconceptions.

What are we willing to sacrifice to be happy? And what happens when good and evil blur until they no longer have any boundaries? This is the question that **Raro, Roberta Raffaele's** pseudonym, poses to the reader in her *Un uomo d'altri tempi* (Scatole Parlanti), a thriller set on a Canadian campus and starring a charming teacher and a singular man with a magnetic gaze.

Sicily and southern Italy seen through the eyes of a restless and reclusive Victorian author, **George Gissing**. **Mauro Minervino**, anthropologist and writer, launches *Verso il Mar Ionio. Un vittoriano al Sud* (Exòrma), a complete translation of Gissing's work, enriched with original drawings and sketches by the English traveller himself, letters, notes and original diary entries.

Also this year at Taobuk **IoScrittore**, the free literary tournament promoted by the Mauri Spagnol Publishing Group (**GeMS**), which at the Festival will announce the 400 semi-finalist books for the 2023 edition. Writing in **order not to forget** and the relationship between writing and memory will be proposed by *IoScrittore* during the event on 18 June

with **Antonella Ferrara**, President and Artistic Director of the festival; **Stefano Mauri Mauri**, President and CEO of the Mauri Spagnol Publishing Group; **Agnese Pini**, the first female editor-in-chief of *La Nazione* and since 2022 director of the Monrif group newspapers, now in the bookstores with *Un autunno d'agosto* (Chiarelettere), and **Barbara Sardella**, Events and Communication Manager of Ubik. The writer **Jolanda Di Virgilio**, from ilLibraio.it, chairs the event.

Sport is the focus of the event '**Let's kick inequalities. Sport, freedom and inclusion**'.

In synergy with **Pelligra Italia**, whose significant investments in Sicily have turned the spotlight on sport as an opportunity for inclusion, the event will be focused on sport as a culture that educates to social redemption, solidarity, sharing and a sense of community.

Vincenzo Grella, managing director of **Catania Calcio**, and **Giovanni Caniglia**, managing director of the **Pelligra Group**, will participate.

IV Observatory on Europe and the Mediterranean

Not only literature, not only fiction. In collaboration with the **Representation in Italy of the European Commission** directed by **Antonio Parenti**, the festival investigates themes closely linked to the European Union's institutional action and its priorities. These include the green and digital transition, the economy at the service of the people, the rule of law, participatory democracy, and freedom of the press.

In recent years, this observatory has been attended by important representatives of institutions, economy and culture such as Paolo Gentiloni, Romano Prodi, Marta Cartabia, Giuliano Amato, Alexandra Borchardt, Kurt Deboef and Bill Emmott.

This year, the comparison will aim to understand the cards that Italy and Sicily can play in this international game, knowing that the world after the Ukrainian conflict will create a new order where China will have an increased political and diplomatic weight. The two events, edited by the economic journalist **Frediano Finucci**, will be attended by personalities of clear relevance in the institutional, academic and scientific fields, safeguarding a choral approach to the topics discussed.

Messina-Brussels. Perspectives and horizons for full freedom of movement.

The bridge over the Strait of Messina is not only a technical (and political) challenge for Italy and future generations. It is also an opportunity to investigate shared principles and mechanisms that have provided the lifeblood of the entire Community project for 30 years: the freedom of movement of goods and services. Participants are **Gaetano Armao**, Delegate of the Rector of the University of Palermo for Insularity; **Antonio Parenti**, Head of the European Commission Representation in Italy; **Nino Rizzo Nervo**, journalist and television executive, President of the Scientific Committee of Taobuk.

Mare Nostrum and war in Ukraine. Italy as crossroads in the energy challenge for a free Europe. The war in Ukraine has brought the issue of energy independence. Freedom from Russian hydrocarbons, a political choice before being an economic one, has shifted the focus of European supply to the south. The Mediterranean Sea has taken on a new, strategic importance as route that bring gas from the Gulf countries and the United States, at the same time re-evaluating existing ties with suppliers in North Africa. What choices does Europe face? How can our country make the most of its Mediterranean centrality economically, politically and strategically? Participants are: **Alexander Alden**, former member of the US National Security Council and former undersecretary at the State Department; **Alessandro Minuto Rizzo**, President of the Nato Defense College Foundation; **Valeria Talbot**, Head of ISPI's Middle East and North Africa Centre; **Leonardo Bellodi**, adjunct professor at Luiss Business School .

Art and culture: the leverage of tourism

There is an image of Sicily and Italy that stands the test of time, transforming itself into the collective imagination, becoming a driver of cultural tourism.

It is the image entrusted to art, literature and cinema, a powerful snapshot capable of conveying the history of our country beyond national borders, also thanks to the participation in major international cultural events - from Gorizia European Capital of Culture 2025 and Agrigento Capital of Culture, to the Frankfurt Buchmesse that in 2024 will see Italy as Guest of Honour. These are true showcases of Italy abroad and powerful boards capable of promoting the country, establishing a 'brand' known throughout the world, evocative of art, culture and beauty.

A round table will discuss on the exceptional nature and heterogeneity of Italy's and Sicily's cultural tourism, in the light of the artistic heritage and the culture-tourism combination.

Culture is also entertainment and Taormina is a stage ready to host it. Thanks to the synergy between cultural and tourist bodies and institutions, Taormina has become the first international destination for film tourism on Tripadvisor, before Rome and Los Angeles. Merit also goes to the leverage effect created by *The White Lotus*, the HBO series largely set in Taormina. With a tribute to Italo Mennella, former President of the Taormina Hoteliers' Association, the event will discuss the issue with figures from the city's business, institutional and cultural world.

This is also the heart of Marco Savatteri's work, author and theatre director, which creates original theatrical works inspired by the material and immaterial cultural heritage of the Mediterranean, drawing inspiration from the history, culture, myth and literature of Sicily and building site-specific theatrical formats. At Taobuk he will discuss upon Progress and Freedom through the Myth of Icarus.

Taormina Cult

Taormina, the beloved destination of Nobel Prize winners such as Rabindranath Tagore, Thomas Mann, John Steinbeck, Anatole France, W. B. Yeats, Selma Lagerlof and Ernest Hemingway, continues to gather intellectuals, writers, scientists, artists and lovers of knowledge to celebrate literature and its ability to make humanity better.

Taormina Cult proposes thematic walks, which can also be enjoyed aboard Ape Calesse, through the places of literature and cinema that have made Taormina famous throughout the world. Taobuk has devised a permanent circuit of 21 emblematic places that reconstruct the city's long history and enrich the cultural experience of the festival: from the mansion that welcomed David Herbert Lawrence and years later Truman Capote, to the Mocambo bar where Ercole Patti and Vitaliano Brancati spent their time, to the hotel that welcomed Oscar Wilde.

TAOBUKTEEN

"Adotta un autore" (Adopt an author) is the title of the reading project that Taobuk 2023 dedicates to high school students, with the aim of suggesting narrative paths that cross topical issues with the most recent Italian publishing cases. The event provides meetings between students and authors and ends in a creative contest on TikTok, for the creation of video-reviews. The best ones will be judged by a jury of excellence and awarded during an event involving boys and girls, authors and authors of national fame.

Find and narrate ourself. Words that release emotions

This is the title of the **creative writing** course proposed this year by Taobuk, open to all (registration required on taobuk.it). At the Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo, the journalist and writer **Francesco Musolino** will help to find the words that release emotions.

Through the readings of writings by Annie Ernaux and others including Joan Didion, Emmanuel Carrère, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Zadie Smith, participants will search for the key to tell their own stories and discover the secrets of autofiction.

All the events of the Festival are free with bookings on taobuk.it. This year the festival is linked to SeeSicily, the Sicilian Region's project that offers one night out of three to those staying in the Region, provides vouchers for excursions and discounts on transport.

The event's main partner is TIM, which with this choice confirms its support for the world of art and culture, which finds one of its highest expressions at national level in Sicily. The Group is strongly committed to the creation of innovative platforms based on the latest technologies, such as artificial intelligence, the cloud and IoT, capable of boosting the process of enhancing Italy's archaeological and cultural heritage. The new models of use of this immense heritage, made possible by technological evolution, represent a fundamental element in the process of digital transformation of our country, which sees TIM committed alongside institutions and businesses.

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