

## Film dubbing: the world-famous Italian art form



The International Dubbing Prize, now in its third edition, has received several acknowledgements for its important value to society, including the prestigious medal presented by the President of the Italian Republic.

The art of dubbing has allowed us to become familiar with stories from all over the world, and to bring peoples, customs and traditions closer together. There is today a great amount of criticism of dubbed film and television, and proposals to abandon dubbing for subtitles, but this would involve deflecting the audience's attention away from the expressive and imitative ability of the dubbing actor to make his character more believable and emotionally involving. Translating a film or television show is the same as translating a work of literature; it is the rewriting of a theme, with the difference that the words must fit into the action and be synchronised to the movements of lips.

This year, in memory of the actor Oreste Lionello, who died last February, Woody Allen sent a tribute for his Italian friend and colleague, who had dubbed his voice for many years. "Oreste Lionello for years made me into a much better actor than I really was". Equally moving was Andrea Capone's tribute to his father Davide Capone, whose voice became famous for dubbing Ridge Forrester in the TV series *Beautiful*, and who had been for many years the voice-over for the famed documentaries of *Superquark*.

The prize for best main actor dubbing went *ex equo* to Michele Kamalera who had dubbed the voice of Clint Eastwood in *Gran Torino* and to Massimo Rossi for that of Harvey Milk in the film *Milk*.

The prize for best adaptation was given to Filippo Ottoni for the film *The strange case of Benjamin Button*, loosely based on the 1922 novel by Scott Fitzgerald, and for best dubbing management to Giuppy Izzo for *Changeling*, a film about motherhood and violence to children. The young director had succeeded in depicting the anguish, rage and strength of a mother fighting to find her child. Best comedy award went to the French film *Giù al Nord*, an enjoyable comedy on the phobias and common place ideas of the French, turned into Italian by Francesco Vairano, who managed very elegantly to dub a French film into a very different idiom..

Among the guests invited to the event were Sandra Milo, Lando Buzzanca, Franco Nero, Giuliano Gemma, Giancarlo Magalli, Nino Frassica, Elena Sofia Ricci, the General Director of the RAI Masi, the American star Matthew Modine and straight from Paris the splendid and still fascinating and elegant Jacqueline Bisset. Pino Insegno and Francesca Draghetti as hosts made the show both emotionally appealing and rich in humour.

Next year's dubbing prize awards, the fourth edition, will involve the universities more closely still, with the Department of Languages for Public Policies of the Faculty of Political Science, Sapienza University of Rome and the Department of Comparative Literature of the faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Rome University 3, continuing research into techniques for translation for film and television adaptation.

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