

La Residenza

First Edition

Screenwriting Residency in Rome

June 9 – July 6, 2025

A project by Fondazione Piccolo America

Purpose and Definitions

La Residenza is the first artistic residency organized by Fondazione Piccolo America.

It is aimed at young directors under 35 from all over the world who are working on the script for their first or second fiction feature film.

La Residenza seeks to encourage a continuous dialogue between cinema and the city, stimulating creativity and allowing participants to engage with a community of film enthusiasts and professionals. Additionally, the choice of Rome as the residency's location serves as a connection to history, architecture, and the vibrant cultural scene of the capital, integrating these elements into the creative process and providing a unique source of inspiration and connection with the art of cinema.

La Residenza also reflects Fondazione Piccolo America's commitment to making Rome a space for experimentation and innovation, bringing together cinema, writing, and community in a project that aims to have a significant impact on the local cinematic and artistic landscape.

Organized by Fondazione Piccolo America, La Residenza will take place during *Il Cinema in Piazza*, Rome's largest outdoor and free-access film festival. Its concurrence with *Il Cinema in Piazza* will offer filmmakers the opportunity to immerse themselves in the seventh art alongside a large audience and to meet prominent figures from the Italian and international film industry.

About Fondazione Piccolo America

Fondazione Piccolo America was established in September 2014 as a Cultural Association dedicated to safeguarding, protecting, and promoting cinematic heritage. It gained foundation status in 2022. It is a non-profit organization composed of young people in their twenties and thirties.

Since 2015, the foundation has organized *Il Cinema in Piazza*, a free film festival held in three different areas of Rome, both in the city center and in peripheral neighborhoods. Since September 2021, Piccolo America has also managed *Cinema Troisi* in Trastevere, a historic movie theater reopened after years of abandonment. Cinema Troisi is a single-screen cinema open 24/7, equipped with cutting-edge projection technology and featuring a free

study hall, a library, a video library, a foyer bar, a terrace, and a multifunctional space for exhibitions and events.

Both *Il Cinema in Piazza* and *Cinema Troisi* have hosted hundreds of renowned directors, writers, and actors, including Francis Ford Coppola, Jane Campion, Ettore Scola, Bernardo Bertolucci, Isabella Rossellini, Paul Schrader, Fanny Ardant, Wes Anderson, Darren Aronofsky, Ari Aster, Paolo Sorrentino, and many more.

Activities Overview

The first edition of La Residenza will take place in Rome from June 9 to July 6, 2025, and will involve four selected filmmakers.

The program provides selected filmmakers with:

- Accommodation in the heart of Rome;
- A full month to work on their project;
- A personalized script writing mentorship program with a dedicated tutor;
- A weekly schedule of workshops and masterclasses with industry professionals;
- Free and unlimited access to screenings at Cinema Troisi;
- Cultural tours of Rome, allowing participants to discover iconic locations and draw inspiration from the city's history and artistic heritage;
- Exclusive meetings with national and international guests invited to *Il Cinema in Piazza 2025*;
- Targeted meetings with production and distribution companies, offering filmmakers the opportunity to present their projects and connect with industry stakeholders.

Objectives

Through La Residenza, Fondazione Piccolo America aims to create a shared space for exchange and interaction between young filmmakers from diverse cinematic traditions and industry experts. The goal is to broaden the global perspective on contemporary cinema and foster discussions on universal themes, narrative techniques, and visual storytelling.

The primary objective of La Residenza is to provide authors with the time and space to freely develop their ideas, exploring new dramaturgical possibilities while receiving valuable feedback to refine and enhance their projects.

At the end of the residency, selected filmmakers will have the opportunity to present their pitches, organized in collaboration with the prominent production company Numero 10, founded by Paolo Sorrentino, will facilitate the filmmakers' entry into the professional circuit, increasing their chances of securing funding and distribution for their projects.

Regulations

Eligibility Criteria for Applicants

The residency selection is open to young directors who have created a short film or feature film that has been selected at one of the following *festivals*:

Cannes Film Festival, Berlinale, Venice International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival, San Sebastián International Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Sundance Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, New York Film Festival, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Telluride Film Festival, Tokyo International Film Festival, London Film Festival, Cairo International Film Festival, Festival Cinema Africano Asia e America Latina, Glasgow Short Film Festival, Midnight Sun Film Festival, Marsiglia Film Festival, Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (Fespaco). No exceptions will be made.

Candidates who have already started pre-production on a second feature film are not eligible.

Applicants must have been born in 1990 or later and must not have turned 35 by the residency start date (June 9, 2025). Candidates must be fluent in either Italian or English.

Each year, one of the four selected participants must come from a designated geographical region. For the 2025 edition, this region is Africa, meaning at least one selected candidate must hold a valid passport issued by an African country. If no eligible applicants from this region are found, the selection will proceed without geographical restrictions.

Eligibility Criteria for Projects

Applicants must submit a treatment for a feature film. Co-directed films are allowed, but if selected, only one member of the team may attend the residency. This person must be specified at the time of application.

During the residency, participants will have the opportunity to develop their treatment and/or screenplay. There is no requirement for the screenplay to be completed by the end of the program; the aim is to provide a space for exploration and growth.

Financial Support

Selected filmmakers are required to stay in Rome for the entire duration of the residency. They will be provided with accommodation and receive a **€1,000 stipend** for the four-week residency.

The Foundation will also cover round-trip travel expenses to and from Rome, up to a maximum of **€1,500 per person**. These expenses will be reimbursed upon presentation of appropriate supporting documentation, in accordance with the procedures that will be communicated to the selected directors.

Application and Deadlines

To apply, filmmakers must complete the online registration form and upload the following documents:

- A treatment outlining the current development phase of the project (maximum 15 pages, in English or Italian);
- A motivation letter;
- A curriculum vitae, listing previous works and festival selections;
- A valid ID;
- A link to previous films (short or first feature film), with access credentials if necessary. The link must remain active until May 31, 2025.

Timeline

- **April 18, 2025:** Applications open
- **May 17, 2025:** Application deadline
- **May 25, 2025:** Notification of selected participants
- **May 30, 2025:** Acceptance deadline
- **June 9, 2025:** La Residenza begins
- **July 6, 2025:** La Residenza ends
- **September:** Pitches with Numero 10

Fondazione Piccolo America will evaluate applications based on the cinematic potential of the candidates' previous works, the quality of their submitted treatments, and their motivation for applying.