

Beat: Entertainment

Twins Asaf and Tomer Hanuka create 2023 festival poster for Lucca Comics & Games

First guests announced

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USPA NEWS - Florence, 29 June 2023 - Lucca Comics & Games have today launched the poster and festival trailer for the 2023 festival which is to be held from November 1st to 5th in the famous Italian city. The 2023 festival theme is 'Together'. This is the 57th edition of what is considered the biggest pop culture event in Europe.

World renowned Israeli twins, cartoonist Asaf Hanuka and The New Yorker illustrator Tomer Hanuka, were selected as this year's poster creators. Faced with the theme 'Together' the twins decided to present themselves in a composition that has the symbolic richness of a Tarot card. An oriental dragon moves towards the towers of Lucca, wrapped in lush, decorated plants, descending as a line of light from the sky and knotted into a symbol of infinity to represent the vastness of the stories, art, drawing and passions shared by the festival's heterogeneous characters. The twins collaborated on comics ("The Divine", on texts by Boaz Lavie), concept art for animation ("A Waltz with Bashir", by Ari Folman, the first animation nominated for the Oscar of Best Foreign Language Film in 2009), and on personal artistic projects ("The Moodies"). Last year Tolkien artist Ted Nasmith created the poster on the festival's theme of 'Hope'.

Tomer Hanuka says, "There are so many ways of being together - sometimes you can even be together with others by being apart, alone with yourself".

Festival Director, Emanuele Vietina, says, "The image captures the essence of Together in a unique and evocative way; the characters depicted represent the multiple tribes that animate the vast community of the festival. By doing things together we come out transformed and the stories once narrated and therefore shared, begin to take on a life of their own. The heart of it is that on our own we can go faster, but together we will go further."

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of Lucca Games, the games section at the festival and to celebrate, a vast array of the best gaming faces are attending alongside some stellar names from comics, TV and film. First announced guests include Naoki Urasawa, Garth Ennis, Craig Thompson, Howard Chaykin, Don Ross, Jim Lee, Luis Royo, Kim Bo-Young, as well as Hollywood star Joe Manganiello.

Actor Joe Manganiello returns yet again to the walled city as an international ambassador for the 30th anniversary of Lucca Games. The Hollywood actor is currently working on what has been announced as the "definitive" D&D documentary, in collaboration with Wizards of the Coast, scheduled for 2024.

Celebrating 30 years of Lucca Games also means celebrating 30 years of Magic: The Gathering. The Creator and historic President of Wizards of Coast, Peter Adkison will be in Lucca to present the Italian premiere of the feature film Igniting the Spark. The Story of Magic: The Gathering. After the great success of Eye of the Beholder: the art of Dungeon & Dragons, director Kelley Slagle (Cavegirl Production) and producers Brian Stillman (X-Ray Films) and Seth Polansky (Cavegirl Production) have chosen Lucca Comics & Games to present their new documentary, dedicated to the famous trading card game.

In the video game part of the festival, Rand Miller, CEO and Co-Founder of Cyan Worlds, co-creator of Myst and Riven will be attending as a special guest. As well as the 30th anniversary of Lucca Games, it's also the 30th anniversary of Myst, the iconic video game.

Author Naoki Urasawa has chosen Lucca Comics & Games for his first visit to Italy. Thanks to the collaboration with Panini Comics, fans will be able to meet Sensei in a series of events. Naoki's work has sold over 140 million copies worldwide and the recipient of the most prestigious awards: from the Shogakukan Manga Award to the Eisner Award, without forgetting four Gran Guinigi won for best serial comic in 2004, 2010, 2012 and 2021 for Monster, Pluto, Billy Bat and Asadora! Respectively.

Also attending is Jim Lee, a superstar of American comics and started working in the House of Ideas at the age of just 23, drawing

various stories including X-Men #1, the comic that still holds the record for best-selling comic book in history.

Garth Ennis changed the world of comics forever and at Lucca Comics & Games it will be possible to see some of his most iconic boards live in an exhibition dedicated to his work - curated by Luca Bitonte and Alessandro Apreda, aka DocManhattan - at the Palazzo Ducale. Ennis, a first time visitor to Lucca Comics & Games, will give fans the chance to meet him in dedicated panels and signing sessions in the Panini and SaldaPress pavilions.

Luis Royo, considered the most influential European artist of his kind, returns to Lucca Comics & Games with an exhibition in Palazzo Ducale dedicated to his art. His fantastic and erotic works have made him one of the most important contemporary artists in his field - and in 2016 he left his handprint for the Lucca Comics & Games 'Walk of Fame'. His son Romulo, one of the most crystalline talents among contemporary artists, joins him, with the two generations confronting each other until they create a single image using the techniques most loved by each of the two artists.

Author of Rizzoli Lizard, Craig Thompson, who has already won two Eisner Awards and two Ignatz Awards, will also be attending. It will be a unique opportunity to meet the creator of unforgettable works such as Habibi and Blankets and to visit an exhibition about him, which will be set up in the foyer of the Teatro del Giglio.

Author Howard Chaykin will have an exhibition dedicated to him, set up at the Banca del Monte Foundation. It's a large retrospective made of non-public works by Italian collectors and some of his most recent works. The author will be present at the festival with SaldaPress, which will bring among others the Omnibus of Black Kiss and the iconoclast The Divided States of Hysteria containing unpublished pages, including an alternative ending.

Don Rosa, with his Scrooge McDuck saga, and who won the prestigious Eisner Award in the United States, returns to Lucca with Panini Comics, after his last visit in 2019.

To top it off, Lucca Comics & Games celebrates the 100 years of Dino Battaglia. One century after his birth and forty years after his death, we celebrate one of the absolute masters of comics, the Venetian artist Dino Battaglia, with an exhibition at Chiesa dei Servi divided into fundamental macro-themes - adventure and war, the religious, the fantastic-metaphysical-science fiction, the fables. The images are distinguished by his ethereal, disturbing and suffused trait, ideal for transmitting messages of peace and brotherhood.

Get ready for an experience that unites generations, cultures and passions, because only together can we make the unexpected possible.

**WE PARTICIPATE IN LUCCA... TOGETHER.
WE PLAY TOGETHER #LUCCAGAMES30**

Early bird tickets available from July 10, 2023

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