**The director Werner Herzog and the actress Kim Novak Golden Lions Achievements at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival**

The director **Werner Herzog** and the actress **Kim Novak** will each receive the **Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement** at the **82nd International Film Festival** of the **Biennale di Venezia** (August 27 – September 6, 2025). The decision was made by the **Board of Directors** of the **Biennale**, upon recommendation of the Director of the Festival, **Alberto Barbera**.

“I feel deeply honored to receive a Lifetime Achievement Honorary Golden Lion by the Venice Biennale. I have always tried to be a Good Soldier of Cinema, and this feels like a medal for my work. Thank you. However, I have not gone into retirement. I work as always. A few weeks ago, I just finished a documentary in Africa, Ghost Elephants, and at this moment, I am shooting my next feature film, Bucking Fastard, in Ireland. I am developing an animated film, based on my novel, The Twilight World, and I am acting the voice of a creature in Bong Joon Ho’s upcoming animated film. I am not done yet.”, said **Werner Herzog** (*Aguirre, the Wrath of God, Fitzcarraldo, Nosferatu the Vampyre)* in accepting the offer.

“I am deeply, deeply touched to receive the prestigious Golden Lion Award from such an enormously respected film festival. To be recognized for my body of work at this time in my life is a dream come true. I will treasure every moment I spend in Venice. It will fill my heart with joy” said **Kim Novak** (*Vertigo, Picnic, Bell, Book and Candle*) in accepting the offer.

With regard to the award to **Werner Herzog**, Festival Director **Alberto Barbera** declared: “A physical filmmaker and indefatigable hiker, Werner Herzog constantly crosses the planet Earth pursuing hitherto unseen images, testing our ability to look, challenging us to grasp what lies beyond the appearance of reality, and probing the limits of filmic representation in an unflagging search for a higher, ecstatic truth and new sensorial experiences. Establishing himself as one of the major innovators of New German Cinema with films such as *Signs of Life*; *Nosferatu the Vampyre*; *Aguirre, the Wrath of God*; and *Fitzcarraldo*, *Bad Lieutenant*, *Port of Call*: *New Orleans*, and *Grizzly Man*, he has never ceased from testing the limits of the film language, belying the traditional distinction between documentary and fiction, and at the same time proposing a radical investigation of the topics of communication, the relationship between images and music, and of the infinite beauty of nature and its inevitable corruption. Herzog’s career is both fascinating and hazardous because it involves total commitment and putting oneself on the line to the point of physical risk, where catastrophe constantly lurks. A brilliant narrator of unusual stories, Herzog is also the last heir of the great tradition of German romanticism, a visionary humanist, and a tireless explorer dedicated to perpetual wandering, in search (as he said) «of a decent and fitting place for mankind, a Landscape of the Soul».”

With regard to the award to **Kim Novak**, Festival Director **Alberto** **Barbera** declared: “Inadvertently becoming a screen legend, Kim Novak was one of the most beloved icons of an entire era of Hollywood films, from her auspicious debut during the mid-1950s until her premature and voluntary exile from the gilded cage of Los Angeles a short while later. She never refrained from criticizing the studio system, choosing her roles, who she let into her private life and even her name. Forced to renounce her given name, Marilyn Pauline, because it was associated with Monroe, she fought to conserve her last name, agreeing, in exchange, to dye her hair that shade of platinum blonde which set her apart. Independent and nonconformist, she created her own production company and went on strike to renegotiate a salary that was much lower than that of her male co-stars.  Thanks to her exuberant beauty; her ability to bring to life characters who were naïve and discreet, as well as sensuous and tormented; and her seductive and sometimes sorrowful gaze, she was appreciated by some of the major American directors of the period, from  Billy Wilder (*Kiss me, Stupid*), to Otto Preminger (*The Man With the Golden Arm*), Robert Aldrich (*The Legend of Lylah Clare*), George Sidney (*The Eddy Duchin Story*, *Jeanne Eagels*, *Pal Joey*), and Richard Quine, with whom she made unforgettable romantic comedies (*Pushover*, *Bell Book and Candle*, *Strangers When We Meet*, *The Notorious Landlady*). But her image will remain forever linked to the dual characters she played in Hitchcock’s *Vertigo*, which became the role of her life. This Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement celebrates a star who was emancipated, a rebel at the heart of Hollywood who illuminated the dreams of movie lovers before retiring to her ranch in Oregon to dedicate herself to painting and to her horses.”