



“Clima, neve e biodiversità, *i position papers* del Cai”

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“Pasang: in the shadow of Everest” by Nancy Svendsen wins the 2023 Mario Bello Award

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The award, conferred every year by the Cai Cinematography Center and Film Library to the film entered at the Trento Film Festival that best represents the values of the Association, was delivered on Sunday in Trento





The film "Pasang: in the shadow of Everest" © Trento Film Festival

The chronicle of the tragic and emotional journey that led **Pasang Lhamu Sherpa** to become the first Nepalese woman to climb Everest, in 1993. As an indigenous, uneducated Buddhist woman in a Hindu kingdom, Pasang's dream of climbing the legendary mountain pits her against her family, foreign mountaineers, her government, and nature itself.

This **historic feat**, which will involve an entire country and give a new generation the courage to believe in their own possibilities, is recounted in the documentary *Pasang: in the shadow of Everest* by **Nancy Svendsen** (United States, 2022, 71 minutes), which is The **2023 Mario Bello Award** from the Cinematography and Film Library Center of the Italian Alpine Club was awarded .

The Mario Bello Award

The award is given every year to the film admitted to the Trento Film Festival competition which represents mountaineering **in** its many aspects of human, cultural, technical adventure, respect for the environment and enhancement and promotion of the populations living in the highlands and of their traditions, reflecting **the ideal values of Cai**.



The screening at the Trento Film Festival

Ambition, determination and courage

The winning film was announced last Sunday at the **Trento Film Festival** (in the context of which the film was screened in Italian preview), on the occasion of the screening at the Supercinema Vittoria. The additional member of the Central Steering Committee of Cai **Angelo** presented the

«In 1993 a Nepalese woman tries to climb Everest, animated by ambition, determination and courage, with the awareness that there are causes for which one can put one's daily life into the background and accept sacrifices, hardships and dangers, in view of a more important result. The impressive popular participation in her funeral partially repays the sacrifice and makes the message even more emotional », reads the motivation of the jury composed of Michele Ambrogi (president), Carlo Ancona, Monica Brenga and Giovanni Pivetti.



Streets on the mountains and in equal rights and opportunities

«The level of the films that competed for the Mario Bello Award this year led the jury to a careful work and a heated confrontation. It's always positive when cinema triggers discussions, it means that the messages are strong, the cinematographic technique of level, the narration accurate», says **Monica Brenga**, president of the Centro di cinematografia e cineteca del Cai. «The decision to reward, not unanimously it must be said, the film "Pasang: in the shadow of Everest" contains these elements».

Personally, President Brenga underlines how the protagonist, in addition to being a woman, is above all a person.

«"Persona" in its etymological sense, from the Etruscan mask, to then become "Personage" in Latin. After all, I find that the film has a narrative construction like a classic tragedy, where the protagonist challenges her community to go beyond the imposed rules, going from challenging the Gods. She is well aware of it, but she goes beyond her life to open uncharted paths for the women of her people and her daughters: not only paths over the mountains, but into equal rights and opportunities. I can only say that if you go to the cinema and watch it with heart and mind, we can go home with many reflections in our pockets, above all that our world does not stop at our home garden. Each one, rightly so, with a seed thought different from each other to be able to grow. And this makes the wonder of cinema» .

MOVIE

AWARDS

THIRTY FILM FESTIVAL