

## FILM RESTORATION SUMMER SCHOOL / FIAF SUMMER SCHOOL 2007

**Theory Lessons on Film Restoration:** distance learning, 2 May – 29 June

**Introduction and attendance at Il Cinema Ritrovato film festival:** Bologna, 30 June – 7 July

**Restoration Practice:** Bologna, 9-29 July

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction of new digital technologies has revolutionized film restoration and radically transformed the concept of preserving and accessing cinema. Today more than ever, our film heritage is available to large audiences via digital media. In the tradition of the pioneering work initiated by FIAF Summer Schools since 1973, this is the first time that the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film (FIAF), the Association des Cinémathèques Européennes (ACE), and the MEDIA Plus Programme of the European Union will combine their efforts with the Cineteca di Bologna and the Immagine Ritrovata film restoration and conservation laboratory, and organize the first Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School.

While the whole film community numbers many film archives, specialized laboratories are by contrast very few. Every year, each film archive restores a considerable number of prints. Hence, it appears necessary for today's curators and their staffs to be trained to use new digital equipment to preserve and restore old films, and to learn about digital strategies for access. Furthermore, all students who are interested in working in a film archive and/or restoration laboratory in the near future should be provided with highly specialized digital and analog tools to enter this field.

Film restoration should not be confined within the walls of a specialized laboratory. Presenting and exhibiting restored films is an active part of the restoration process. For this reason we have decided to open the Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School in Bologna, in conjunction with the festival Il Cinema Ritrovato [30 June-7 July 2007], a true meeting place for researchers and experts. The connection between learning about digital and analog restoration and Il Cinema

THE CURRENT  
STATE OF  
THINGS

WHY A  
FIAF  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL  
FOCUSED ON  
RESTORATION?

FILM  
RESTORATION  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL AND IL  
CINEMA  
RITROVATO

Ritrovato is therefore a close one. It is important to put restoration into practice and to learn how to restore a film, while it is equally crucial to understand how old films, restored by different archives, can be exhibited today.

The project's main objective is to teach and update participants on how to restore, reconstruct, and preserve a film using analog and new digital technology, and how analog systems and new digital technologies can actually coexist. Participants will have the chance to experience everyday work in a highly specialized laboratory, including all departments and every step of the process, from beginning to end. In following the Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School, participants are expected to acquire certain skills: how to operate all digital and analog equipment in an archive and a restoration laboratory; follow a complete restoration process; perform all the main necessary operations needed to restore a film; evaluate the state of conservation of a film, and decide the best practice to restore, reconstruct, and preserve it.

The innovative Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School is the first film school programme dedicated to teaching digital and analog techniques to restore old archival prints. While digital technologies have a well-established role in the contemporary film industry, the importance that they play in film restoration has been somewhat neglected as a teaching/learning experience.

After completing the Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School, the target group will know how a film can be restored following new digital and analog technologies in a modern, flexible work environment. Furthermore, the target group will be able to assess the best format to restore a film and have it translated from film support to broadcasting and DVD support.

## **2. PROGRAMME**

The training is conceived for an international target group, and will be

**FILM  
RESTORATION  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL  
TARGETS**

**ANALOG AND  
DIGITAL  
RESTORATION**

**FINAL AIMS**

**PARTICIPANTS**

taught by an international panel of the best experts from different countries. The Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School is conceived both for archivists and staff working at FIAF archives, and students. The aim is to foster a shared knowledge in the field for current and future generations, and film archives worldwide. Special attention will be given to participants coming from countries with less developed traditions of restoration. Classes will be in English and French.

Training will take place at the Cineteca di Bologna's screening theatres and library, while the internship will be organized at the laboratory L'Immagine Ritrovata in Bologna. Training will last 3 weeks, from Monday 9 July through Sunday 29 July 2007, and will be preceded by the Cinema Ritrovato film festival [30 June to 7 July 2007 – 1 week, optional], and a two-month online distance learning experience on restoration technologies with a weekly update.

The Immagine Ritrovata laboratory's highly specialized staff will be closely involved in the intensive 3-week training programme and internship. Participants will be divided into six groups, and will work in each department of the laboratory:

- 1. analog restoration**
- 2. printing and processing**
- 3. sound restoration**
- 4. digital restoration (part 1)**
- 5. digital restoration (part 2)**
- 6. video format**

The Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School is structured along three main lines of interest:

**WHERE  
AND  
WHEN**

**TRAINING  
PROGRAMME**

**MAIN LINES OF**

1. **Theory Lessons on Film Restoration** (distance learning, 2 months, 2 May – 29 June 2007) **INTEREST**
2. **Introduction and attendance at the Cinema Ritrovato festival** (1 week, optional)
3. **Restoration Practice** (3 weeks, compulsory)

### **2.1. Theory Lessons on Film Restoration**

For 2 months preceding the classes in Bologna, participants will be provided with theory lessons, downloadable weekly on their computer at [www.immagineritrovata.it](http://www.immagineritrovata.it). This distance-learning preparation will include lessons on new digital film restoration, access, and conservation. These online lessons will run from 2 May until 29 June 2007.

**DISTANCE  
LEARNING – 2  
MONTHS**

### **2.2. Introduction and attendance at the Cinema Ritrovato film festival (1 week, optional)**

The first week will be entirely devoted to the XXI edition of the Cinema Ritrovato film festival, which is the Cineteca di Bologna's main international event. Since 1987, the festival has investigated the most obscure territories of cinema history, screening the best of "Recovered and Restored Films" from archives around the world.

Students will be free to attend the festival at their discretion. Some screenings will be compulsory.

Daily meetings of 2 hours or more with international specialists will be organized for all participants.

During the week of the festival, these meetings will analyse in detail restoration practice from a theoretical point of view, dealing in particular with film courses in a film restoration laboratory. These theoretical meetings will be an introduction and an in-depth study preceding the 3 weeks of internship; daily topics will therefore reflect laboratory stages.

**IL CINEMA  
RITROVATO  
FILM FESTIVAL**

**MEETINGS  
WITH  
SPECIALISTS**

Basically, the two main directions to be followed will consist of:

1. Analog and digital processing, for both picture and sound, will form an in-depth course in theory, supported by study cases. A brief section dedicated to fundamental principles of film restoration will introduce specific topics, such as film and its treatment in printing and processing. An extensive theoretical schedule will be proposed on digital restoration, with the presence of main experts in this field.

2. Partnership with the audio-visual industry plays a key role in the project, and will be developed through both the direct involvement of the main companies in the production of software and equipment for digital and analog restoration, and an internship at the restoration laboratory L'Immagine Ritrovata.

During the classes, several representatives from the main companies manufacturing software and restoration equipment will be invited to present their strategies.

### **2.3. Internship (3 weeks, compulsory)**

During the internship, participants will be supervised by international experts and laboratory staff to put into practice what they have learned during their first week of theory.

A considerable amount of time will be devoted to restoration practices. For 3 weeks, students will be offered hands-on experience, working in each department of the laboratory.

During the internship, the laboratory L'Immagine Ritrovata will suspend all restorations in order to follow completely all the activities scheduled by the Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School 2007, to allow participants to benefit fully from its staff and facilities.

For the 3 weeks of the internship, participants will occupy the premises of the laboratory L'Immagine Ritrovata for 8 hours per day for 15 days. Participants will have access to all departments of the laboratory.

**TWO**

**DIRECTIONS:**

**1. FILM  
RESTORATION**

**2. AUDIO-  
VISUAL  
INDUSTRY**

**PUTTING  
THEORY INTO  
PRACTICE**

**LABORATORY  
EXPERIENCE**

Each department will accommodate a maximum of 5 participants. This is considered the right ratio of students per piece of equipment, so that each student will be able to interact directly.

**Analog Restoration:** Film handling and inspection; repairing film to prepare it for cleaning and printing.

**Printing and Processing:** Principles of optical and contact printing; study of different printers, film sensitivity, printer loading and use. Rudiments of development and parameters analysis of mutual relations between printing and development. Use of Video Colour Analyser to set printing parameters from negative to positive copy; application of Lad, Strip, and other quality-control tools to check the correct operation of printing and development. Desmet colour and its use. Quality control.

**Sound Restoration:** Soundtrack restoration, with dedicated plug-in for editing.

**Digital Restoration 1:** Scanning a motion picture image to a digital file, and digital treatment by computer programmes in order to restore a film.

**Digital Restoration 2:** The computer processes data for film reconstruction and restoration. The final aim of this stage will be the transfer of data onto film base or digital support, using special software for digital restoration.

**Video Format** (DigitalBetacam, DVD, etc.): digitalization and data processing to make a copy of a film on digital support.

### 3. PARTICIPANTS

Participants will be selected according to their CV, commitment, and motivation.

## INTERNSHIP IN SIX SECTIONS:

### 1. ANALOG RESTORATION

### 2. PRINTING AND PROCESSING

### 3. SOUND RESTORATION

### 4. DIGITAL RESTORATION 1

### 5. DIGITAL RESTORATION 2

### 6. VIDEO FORMAT

### SELECTION

All applications will be examined by a special commission composed of representatives of FIAF, ACE, and the Cineteca di Bologna. The commission will officially release the names of the 30 selected participants via the Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School 2007 website in late April 2007.

**COMMISSION**

The school will be divided into two levels, Junior and Intermediary. Skills evaluation will determine a separation into different groups on the basis of personal CV and film archive experience.

**LEVELS OF  
EXPERIENCE**

Participation fee: 1,500 Euros. The participation fee includes registration, room, and lunch for 30 days.

**PARTICIPATION  
FEE**

The Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School 2007 will grant 3 scholarships, accounting for 10% of the total number of participants. Applications submitted by participants from countries where the audio-visual and preservation/restoration fields are less developed will be given special attention.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### 4. DEADLINES

<b>DATES</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>ABOUT MATERIALS</b>
November 13 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Copenhagen - FIAF Technical Committee meeting	Official presentation of Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School draft
November 18 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Thessaloniki – ACE Executive Committee meeting	Official presentation of Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School draft
end of November 2006	Taipei – FIAF Executive Committee meeting	Definitive presentation of the draft with changes suggested by FIAF and ACE Technical Committee
January 8 <sup>th</sup> 2007		- Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School website activation, at <a href="http://www.immagineritrovata.it">www.immagineritrovata.it</a> , with links to FIAF and ACE websites
		- Application Form downloadable from website
		- Temporary schedule downloadable from website
February 8 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Berlin Film Festival (8-18 February)	- Definitive programme, names of international tutors, and e-learning notes to be submitted to the FIAF Managerial Committee
March 5 <sup>th</sup> 2007		- Deadline for Application Form. Late applications until April 13 <sup>th</sup> , subject to vacancy.
April 7 <sup>th</sup> 2007	FIAF Congress - Tokyo	- Formal presentation of Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School
April 16 <sup>th</sup> 2007		- A special commission made up of FIAF, ACE, and Cineteca di Bologna members will examine all application forms, select the 30 participants, and release their names. - Announcement of participants' names
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2007		- Beginning of Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School

**NOVEMBER 2006**

**JANUARY 2007**

**FEBRUARY 2007**

**MARCH 2007**

**APRIL 2007**

**MAY 2007**

## 5. Website and Dissemination of Results

A dedicated website will be put in place in order to host the 2-month distance learning process and to provide participants with a common “space” to exchange opinions, discuss topics, and pose questions to specialists. The website will be constantly updated.

The results of the training period will be disseminated through the publication of a book and the creation of a DVD which will gather together all the films restored by the participants during their training. Both the book and the DVD will be sent to all film archives, film libraries, and film schools. A selection of DVD clips will be downloadable from the website.

The publication in English will retrace all the activities carried out at the Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School 2007, as well its methodologies and the participants’ outcomes.

The DVD will practically illustrate all the results achieved by the participants.

The book and DVD will have a print-run of 800 copies, and will be distributed to all film archives and film libraries, as well as to important universities.

**WEBSITE  
UPDATES**

**DVD  
& BOOK**

**Partners of the Film Restoration Summer School / FIAF Summer School 2007**

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