

# The Museum of Modern Art

## MoMA AND LUCE CINECITTÀ PRESENT *THE WONDERS: ALICE AND ALBA ROHRWACHER*, THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN RETROSPECTIVE HONORING THE FILMMAKERS

### *The Wonders: Alice and Alba Rohrwacher*

December 4, 2019–December 23, 2019

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

**NEW YORK, November 4, 2019**—Celebrating two visionary careers in contemporary cinema, The Museum of Modern Art and Luce Cinecittà present *The Wonders: Alice and Alba Rohrwacher*, the first-ever North American retrospective of Italian writer-director Alice Rohrwacher and actress Alba Rohrwacher, screening in MoMA's Debra and Leon Black Family Film Center December 4–23, 2019. The retrospective is organized by Joshua Siegel, Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, and Camilla Cormanni and Paola Ruggiero, Luce Cinecittà.

Curator Josh Siegel explains, “Few filmmakers are more deserving of a MoMA retrospective than this pair of extraordinary sisters, Alice and Alba Rohrwacher, who have brought such intelligence and vitality to contemporary cinema with their unique talents both behind and in front of the camera.”

Opening the retrospective is the 2018 Cannes Best Screenplay winner *Happy as Lazzaro*, the third feature film written and directed by Alice Rohrwacher, which also costars Alba Rohrwacher. Hailed as an “instant classic” by *The New York Times*, the film centers around Lazzaro, a hardworking young farmer who, despite being ordered around by most everyone, maintains a cherubic smile. Befriended by the spoiled son of Lazzaro's heiress boss, Lazzaro naively joins along with his vengeful pursuit against her. On December 4, *Happy as Lazzaro* will be introduced by Alba and Alice Rohrwacher. Screening prior to *Happy as Lazzaro* is the New York premiere of Ginevra Elkann's directorial debut film *If Only* (2019), which stars Alba Rohrwacher; both women will introduce the film.

The series also includes Alice Rohrwacher's feature film debut at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival, *Heavenly Body*. The film introduces 13-year-old Marta, who explores the boundaries of a new home and her Catholic faith while struggling with a maturing body. From the very onset of her career, Alice Rohrwacher's talents did not go unnoticed: *The Hollywood Reporter* said of Rohrwacher's debut that it “shows a keen eye for naturalistic detail.” Also screening is Alice Rohrwacher's second feature, *The Wonders*, which won the 2014 Cannes Grand Prix and stars Alba Rohrwacher as the matriarch of a Tuscan beekeeping family who find their world turned upside down with the simultaneous arrival of two strangers.

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Alba Rohrwacher is considered “one of the finest actresses of her generation” by *The New York Times* critic A.O. Scott. This retrospective contains numerous highlights of her career, including her breakout role in Luca Guadagnino’s *I Am Love* (2009), as well as award-winning performances in Pupi Avati’s *Giovanna’s Father* (2008), Saverio Costanzo’s *The Solitude of Prime Numbers* (2010), and Silvio Soldini’s *Come Undone* (2010). In 2014, Alba Rohrwacher won the Best Actress award at the Venice International Film Festival for her role in Saverio Costanzo’s *Hungry Hearts*, which will also be featured. Other screenings highlighting Alba Rohrwacher’s accomplished work include Laura Bispuri’s *Daughter of Mine* (2018) and *Sworn Virgin* (2015), and Marco Bellocchio’s *Dormant Beauty* (2012) and *Blood of My Blood* (2015), among many others.

The complete schedule of *The Wonders: Alice and Alba Rohrwacher* can be found [here](#).

**SPONSORSHIP:**

Support is provided by the Annual Film Fund. Leadership support for the Annual Film Fund is provided by Steven Tisch, with major contributions from Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Association of Independent Commercial Producers (AICP), The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston, Marlene Hess and James D. Zirin, Karen and Gary Winnick, and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art.

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