

Messaggero Veneto

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From the Nonino to Geneva

Gianotti will be the Director of the CERN

By Fabiana Dallavalle

**The scientist is the first woman to be the head of the laboratory of particle physics.
The appointment, the great joy and the rush to Rome with Giannola for Olmi's preview.**

Only two years ago she had enchanted the audience of the International Nonino Prize with a passionate speech in which the young Italian researchers in particle physics were considered the most required and prepared in the world: «In foreign countries they are highly required. The merit goes to our humanistic tradition that pushes us to imagine what's unimaginable, to our universities and to our National Institute of nuclear physics which has a great tradition». Fabiola Gianotti, Nonino Laureate 2013 and member of the jury, yesterday was appointed Director General of the Cern of Geneva, an absolute novelty for the greatest laboratory in the world, dedicated to particle physics, and an acknowledgement to Italian physics. After the celebrations for its sixty years of history the Cern opens the doors to the first woman called to manage it. A prestigious achievement for the "lady of science", (Time, in 2012, included her among the five most influential people on the planet). Fifty-two years of age, born in Rome, education in Milan, Fabiola Gianotti, seals the extraordinary discovery of the Higgs Boson, which took place on July 4th 2012 thanks to the Atlas experiment she guided. The famous "God's particle". «I learned with the greatest satisfaction and true pleasure the result of the selection procedures, which I followed from close and with anxiety, together with the Italian scientific world, for the appointment of Dr. Gianotti at the head of the European Organization for nuclear research», the President of the Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, affirmed yesterday in a note. And, always last night, at the end of a very particular day for Fabiola, she received the President's invitation to join him at the preview of «Torneranno i prati», director Ermanno Olmi's latest work. The film, shown yesterday in almost 100 Countries in the world, as well as in Rome at the presence of the most important institutional personalities and of the Diplomatic Corps, among its producers counts Rai Cinema, Ipotesi Cinema, with the support of the Banca Popolare di Vicenza, Edison, Vicenza Film Commission and Nonino Distillatori from Friuli. «There is a special bond between Ermanno Olmi, a member of the jury of the Nonino, my family and Fabiola Gianotti»: as revealed by Antonella Nonino, reached on the phone in Rome, few hours before the show. On the occasion of the Prize, Fabiola Gianotti, who's fond of poetry and music (she has a conservatory diploma in piano), told us that when she was a young girl, though being very shy, she had dubbed the girl who was the protagonist of «L'albero degli zoccoli», master Olmi's masterpiece. Since that prize the bond between them has been of great affection and closeness and we are immensely happy of celebrating Fabiola also on the occasion of an event our heart pounds for».

Photo: Fabiola Gianotti awarded in Percoto with the Nonino and now a member of the jury; on top the Cern laboratories in Geneva.