



2nd EDITION OF ITALIAN CONTEMPORARY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES WINNERS

TORONTO, ON – July 8, 2013 - - The 2nd edition of the Italian Contemporary Film Festival, presented by IC Savings, drew to a close on Saturday night with the announcement of the ICFF Awards, the screening of Silvio Soldini's *Cosa voglio di più* (*Come Undone*) and a post-screening Gala at Andrew Richard Designs.

The closing ceremony marked a successful 11-day festival, which began June 26 and showcased a diverse and vivid selection of 62 Italian and Italian-themed features and shorts, including 32 premieres representing the best in new Italian cinema.

Artistic Director, Cristiano de Florentiis and Managing Director, Maurizio Magnifico were on hand to thank visiting and local filmmakers for their participation, throngs of enthusiastic filmgoers of all ages, sponsors for their patronage and support, and dedicated volunteers for making the second edition of the ICFF a great success.

Cristiano de Florentiis, ICFF's Artistic Director stated: "We are thrilled by the strong enthusiasm shown to our festival, and we are very proud of the positive contribution it has made to Toronto's vibrant cultural life in such a short span of time."

During the closing ceremony, the ICFF presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to veteran Italian-Swiss filmmaker **Silvio Soldini** (*Bread and Tulips*), one of the most acclaimed directors of contemporary Italian cinema, in recognition of the filmmaker's commendable body of work spanning a career of over three decades. The award was presented to Soldini by Italian actress Monica Nappo (*Woody Allen's To Rome With Love*), who is featured in the closing night film, *Cosa voglio di più*.

The Italian Contemporary Film Festival presented four awards:

The Angela Baldassarre Award for Best Film, established in honour of the late Toronto film critic, was awarded to Peter Strickland's **BERBERIAN SOUND STUDIO** by members of the Toronto Film Critics Association. The jury was comprised of TFCA members Karen Gordon, Thom Ernst and Angelo Muredda.

Jury Statement: "It is an honour to present this year's Angela Baldassarre Award for Best Film of the ICFF to director Peter Strickland's inventive and haunting thriller, BERBERIAN SOUND STUDIO."

"BERBERIAN SOUND STUDIO takes its cues from the kind of films once made by the Italian masters-of-horror, Argento, Bava and Fulci and, through the use of sound, creates a powerful illusion of unease and terror. Strickland immerses us in the backstage magic of horror filmmaking, lingering over the sight of every switch and knob on the soundboard, and revelling in the eerie sound of every smashed melon. We become eavesdroppers rather than voyeurs along a mesmerizing journey into one man's isolation and perhaps, madness."

BERBERIAN SOUND STUDIO will be released in Canada by Films We Like.

Honourable mention: Silvio Soldini's **COSA VOGLIO DI PIÙ**.

"The jury would also like to recognize director Silvio Soldini's **COSA VOGLIO DI PIÙ**, a film that beautifully combines the heartbreaking complications of desire over commitment. Soldini's story is authentic and yet entirely cinematic, revealing moments of raw passion, and regret. Truly one of the best films of the year."

The IC Savings Award went to Frank D'Angelo's **REAL GANGSTERS**, a realistic crime thriller tinged with dark humour. The Toronto-shot mob movie, written and directed by Frank D'Angelo, stars an ensemble cast with D'Angelo, Nick Mancuso, Steven Bauer, Margot Kidder, Robert Loggia, Michael Paré, John Savage, Tony Rosato and Art Hindle. President and CEO of IC Savings (Italian Canadian Savings & Credit Union), Fausto Gaudio was on hand to congratulate the filmmaker and present him with the Award.

The People's Choice Award, voted by festival audiences, went to Paolo Genovese's **UNA FAMIGLIA PERFETTA** (*A Perfect Family*), which had its international premiere at the festival.

The inaugural **Best Short Film Award**, sponsored by ICFF with a cash prize of \$1000, went to Alessandro Marinaro's **BUONGIORNO SIGNOR BELLAVISTA** (**Good morning Mr. Bellavista**).

Building on the success of the 2012 inaugural edition, the expanded 11-day festival was a major success, with screenings at three venues: the TIFF Bell Lightbox, the Royal Cinema and the AMC Interchange in Vaughan.

In addition, the ICFF expanded to Montreal this year, presenting a selection of films in collaboration with La Cinémathèque québécoise and the [Italian Cultural Institute of Montreal](#), from June 26 – June 30.

SPONSORS

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For a complete list of sponsors please visit: <http://www.icff.ca>

ABOUT THE ITALIAN CONTEMPORARY FILM FESTIVAL (ICFF)

Founded in 2012, the ICFF is Canada's leading non-profit cultural organization which provides a showcase for the best in new Italian cinema. Each year, the festival presents international, national and local Italian and Italian-themed films to celebrate the diversity of this country's rich cultural heritage.

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