

June 23, 2018

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**RE: ICFF 2018 AWARDS**

Esteemed Mr. Claudio Bisio,

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We are delighted to officially inform you that you are the recipient of the ICFF 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award, and that Couch Potatoes has been recognized as the 2018 Best Film, selected by the TFCA jury.

The 2018 **ICFF Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution throughout their professional career, enriching Italian culture through their work on motion pictures and television.

As one of the most popular and well-known Italian actors, your professional career is multifaceted, ranging from strong showman capabilities to great theatre performances. In addition to being an excellent writer, you proved to be an explorer as a guest here in Canada, accompanied by your lovely wife Sandra. You proved to be extremely interested and eager to interact with various cities in our great country, taking a trip up North to Georgian Bay, Montreal, as well as our Nation's Capital.

As a duo alongside Gabriele Salvatores, you've created masterpieces such as Puerto Escondido, Nirvana, Turnè, and Oscar-winner Mediterraneo. Some of your most recent motion pictures included Benvenuti al Sud and Benvenuto Presidente! On stage, you've performed various works of authors such as Pennac and Baricco, as well as being the heart of the smash TV show Zelig. During ICFF 2018, you presented your latest film Gli sdraiati, directed by Francesca Archibugi.

The **ICFF 2018 Film Critics Award** was presented by the TFCA jury: Jim Slotek, Gilbert Seah, Andrew Parker, and Pal Mullen.

Established in 1997, the Toronto Film Critics Association (TFCA) is comprised of Toronto-based journalists and broadcasters who specialize in film criticism and commentary.

TFCA proudly presided as jurors in the 2018 edition of the ICFF. Several of the films intrigued them, especially given the universal Italian movies' themes, which left them entertained. However, there was one they unanimously praised above the rest: Francesca Archibugi's Couch Potatoes.

The movie is about a famous TV journalist who doesn't get any respect from his contemptuous Millennial son, who invites his lazy friends over to party in his father's home. It's a nightmare that every parent of the boomer generation has.

Couch Potatoes, or Gli Sdraiati as it is known in Italian, speaks to the aimless Millennials in western countries, the comfortable, aging "boomers" and helicopter parenting. It is a film that displays real people with real problems, behind all those buzzwords, presenting a real father and son relationship. It is for this reason that Couch Potatoes was awarded the 2018 TFCA Critics Award.

The exclusive award ceremony took place on Friday, June 22, 2018 at 9:00 PM, preceded by a special red carpet, during an elegant gala of 400 guests at The Ritz-Carlton, Toronto.

This festival concluded what has become the largest international cinematic and cultural event outside of Italy. Furthermore, we are proud to say that this year alone we screened over 180 films, documentary and shorts in 7 Canadian cities, with over 40,000 spectators in attendance.

Congratulations from all of us.

With distinct regards,



Cristiano de Florentiis, Artistic Director