

City of Vaughan Arts, Science and Culture **Cristiano De Florentiis** Co-Founders, Italian Contemporary Film Festival



Cristiano de Florentiis is the founder and artistic director of the Italian Contemporary Film Festival (ICFF), inaugurated in 2012 to presently span across 7 Canadian cities and attract 30,000 attendees and 135 screenings has become one of the most influential showcases for contemporary cinema of Italian origin in the world.

The ICFF has cultivated and established an International presence and reputation, attracting as well as hosting guests such as Roberto Benigni, James Franco, Al Pacino, Claudia Cardinale, Raoul Bova, Danny Glover, and Carlo Verdone.

His passion for cinema emerged at an early age, and at the age of 14, he was already an official member of the jury at the Giffoni International Film Festival, the world's largest children's film festival.

Along with his passion for cinema, de Florentiis has always cultivated his love for television and journalism. He is a professional journalist by trade, and still divides his work between Rome and Toronto.

He has been the Canadian correspondent for the Italian state television RAI for numerous years. His coverage has extended throughout countries across the world: USA, Cuba, China, Egypt, Mexico, Russia, Australia, South Africa and all over Europe. After battling numerous challenges de Florentiis was successful in earning the rights to bring the Italian public broadcast television channel RAI International to Canada in 2005. He worked on distributing the channel across Canada, collaborating with all the major television networks through cable and satellite, strengthening relations with numerous prominent organizations within the Canadian broadcasting industry.

De Florentiis has had a long collaboration with CHIN Radio hosting a weekly show on public affairs, culture and politics. He also collaborates and is the television and radio correspondent with news entities such as *Il Tempo*, *Famiglia Cristiana*, and *Il Giornale*.

As writer and director, de Florentiis has produced numerous nature and social documentaries for RAI TV, such as *The Dinosaur Cemetery*, *Father Goose*, *St. Jacob*, *When Time Stops*, *The Last Cowboys*, *Between Europe and the New World*, *The Voice of Little Italy* and *The Italians of the Last Frontier*.

In 2002 de Florentiis co-founded and was elected president of the cultural association *L'Altra Italia*, which was established and celebrates art, education, and entertainment creating a liaison between Italy and Canada. The association based in Toronto, and is currently comprised of approximately 1000 members, with monthly events encompassing today's Italian Cinema, culinary tasting, and current music.

In 2005, Italy's President of the Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi conferred upon him the title of "Knight of the Italian Republic." The honour was given in recognition of de Florentiis's commitment to the Italian community in Canada.

He was born in Rome, and completed his education specializing in Journalism at *La Sapienza*. He has resided in Toronto since 1997.

City of Vaughan Arts, Science and Culture **Maurizio Magnifico** **Co-Founders, Italian Contemporary Film Festival**



Maurizio Magnifico is originally from Bari, Italy, and born in 1962. In his early years encompassed an intrinsic dedication to the Arts and Health and earned a diploma in Interior Design and a degree from ISEF in Foggia for Physical Education. He was additionally an active and committed member of the semi-pro basketball team.

Arrived in Toronto, Canada, in 1988 to forge a life with his incredibly vibrant and highly motivated wife Vanna. Maurizio entered the travel industry with his creative ability to engage and build meaningful relationships within his specific market. He continues to be the Director of Sales at St. Clair Travel Agency Ltd.

Networking within his diverse group of friends and with the unconditional support of family, Maurizio spearheaded L'Altra Italia, a non-profit cultural association as a platform to celebrate the Art of Cinema through an Italian lens. Founded on the principals of enriching Canadian culture while strengthening the Italian voice, Maurizio's leadership and

vision has enabled the immeasurable growth of both members and audiences throughout the cities of Toronto and Vaughan. From the inception of L'Altra Italia in 2002, Maurizio has maintained the position of President until 2010 and has successfully amassed a loyal membership of over 1000 individuals who gather bimonthly to engage in Italian Cinema.

With established success, an unwavering passion for the Arts and with a niche interest in Film, a broader vision was brought to light with his co-founder Cristiano De Florentiis and their respectively creative wives. The Italian Contemporary Film Festival (ICFF) is a multifaceted forum that brings together a group of exceptional and innovative talent. Festival notables are as dynamic as they are captivating, and have thus far comprised of Directors Marco Tullio Giordana, Paolo Genovese, Silvio Soldini, Gennaro Nunziante just to name a few.

Moreover, the embodiment of recognition also includes, Director/Actor Carlo Verdone, highly acclaimed Checco Zalone, Multiple award recipient Claudia Cardinale, Enrico Brignano, Vittoria Puccini and Academy Award Winner Director/Actor Roberto Benigni.

As the Co-Founder and Managing Director, Maurizio fulfills a plethora of duties that require intricate organizational skills and ongoing public relations. On route to further expanding his audience, Maurizio has collaboratively engaged with CHIN Radio on a series of weekly travel related broadcasts. His undeniable dedication and commitment to the Italian voice and experience via the Arts is what fuels and propels his vision forward. He resides in Toronto with his loving wife and three children.