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ICFF launches its annual event, *Call the Shots: Female Power Through Film*.

In celebration of *International Women's Day*, the ICFF presented by IC Savings is proud to present a one-day event that commits to promoting the visibility of female driven cinema, in its content, and in its production. The 2019 edition is dedicated to successful women who have made their mark in the Cinema Industry.

There will be a 30 minute panel discussion with the participation of women who have achieved success the film industry. This will be followed by the screening of Marco Tullio Giordana's, The Name of A Woman.

TORONTO (February 20, 2019) – The Italian Contemporary Film Festival has announced more exciting news today. Much to the delight of cinema lovers across the country, ICFF will present the second edition of *Call the Shots: Female Power through Film* which will be held on International Women's Day, March 8th, 2019, as part of the ICFF Special Programs.

True to its mandate to promote and celebrate women's achievements in film and in society as a whole, the second annual event promises to deliver another incredible evening; A pre-movie reception will be followed by an engaging panel discussion introduced by Mara Cataldi, Director of Operations and founder of Call the Shots, and moderated by ICFF Artistic Director Cristiano de Florentiis, and Tonia Serrao Soppelsa, Co-ordinator of Cultural Events.

The three guest panelists in the round table discussion, are women whose contributions to cinema will be celebrated for years to come, and whose paths to success have not been without challenges: *Joana Vicente* is the newly-appointed, first female CEO of the world-renowned Toronto International Film Festival, and is an acclaimed independent producer and a prominent member of New York's film scene; *Patricia Cuccia* is a well-known set decorator, whose works include *Brokeback Mountain*, *Mean Girls* and *Titans*; and *Christina Piovesan* is a celebrated film director and producer, as well as the founder of First Generation Films, responsible for the 2018 Special Presentations opener at TIFF, *Mouthpiece*. The panel discussion serves as a critical component of the event, offering audiences some insight into the theme of the evening from the unique perspective of women in the film industry.

Subsequent to the discussion, the ICFF presents the feature film, *Nome di Donna*, (The Name of A Woman) co-written and directed by *Marco Tullio Giordana* and starring none other than *Cristiana Capotondi*, best known for her roles in *Notte Prima degli Esami* and *Milano 2015*.

The film is a stunning portrayal of a young single-mother who uproots the only life her daughter has ever known to move to a small village in Northern Italy and start over. Nina begins what seems like a dream job, working in an upscale private seniors' clinic with other women she comes to care for and connect with, only to discover a deep history of sexual harassment within the organization, and an even deeper willingness to keep quiet about it. After falling victim to inappropriate advances by her supervisor, she quickly realizes she is not alone. What she cannot understand is her colleagues' resignation to management's unseemly behavior; the women are obliged to keep the company's dark, dirty secrets for fear of losing their jobs. Nina must find the courage to stand up for herself, and although she is met with fierce opposition from her fellow employees, she takes on the daunting task of leading a small revolution that will ultimately have huge consequences; not only for herself and her colleagues, but more importantly for her child.

The film makes a poignant contribution to the very relevant and incredibly important conversations around sexual harassment, gender equality and safety in the workplace in the 21st century. With the birth of the #MeToo movement, it has become more evident than ever that a clear and open dialogue around such issues is absolutely necessary. For this reason the ICFF is committed to bringing its audiences films of relevance and social conscience.

The event is supported by George Brown College.

For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, please visit www.icff.ca.

About ICFF

The Italian Contemporary Film Festival is one of the most important celebrated events of Italian culture in North America, and is the largest Italian film festival outside of Italy. The annual festival attracts thousands of attendees to screenings, industry events, and galas. The eight annual Italian Contemporary Film Festival will run from June 13 - 21, 2019. ICFF is presented by IC Savings and generously supported by Great Gulf Homes, Empire Communities, Two Sisters Vineyards, Castlepoint Numa, Cityzen Dominus and Delta Air Lines – the Official Airline Sponsor of the ICFF.

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