

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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7th Sicilian Film Festival

THE SICILIAN FILM RETURNS IN ITS 7TH EDITION WITH STELLAR LINE-UP OF FILMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Miami - Now in its 7th year, the Sicilian Film Festival returns to the **Miami Beach Cinemateque** from **April 11-17** with a stellar line up of films and special events. Presenting films by directors primarily from Southern Italy, as well as highlighting the region's art, literature, food, wine, music, fashion and culture, the festival promises to be April's not to be missed cultural event.

The program of all films, chosen by Artistic Director **Salvo Bitonti**, and events will be revealed on March 19th. The exciting selections included this year are award-winning films ***Martino's Summer (L'estate di Martino)*** starring **Treat Williams**, **Luchino Visconti's *The Leopard (Il Gattopardo)*** starring **Burt Lancaster** and **Claudia Cardinale**, ***I am Love (Io sono l'amore)*** by **Luca Guadagnino**, starring **Tilda Swinton** in one of her finest performances, as well as a five fascinating shorts from the Sicilian Queer Festival.

Special events include an exhibition ***Cuban Faces*** by photographers **Gianni Criscione**, **Manlio Caliri** and **Emanuele Pensavalle**, a VIP cocktail party at the Consul General of Italy the Honourable **Adolfo Barattolo**, a book signing: ***Kindness for the Damned: Intrigue, Love and Redemption of Sicily*** with author **D.J. Healey**, a spotlight on Turkey with a special presentation of the film ***Kız Çocuğu (Little Girl)*** by **Hacan Berber** and ***Being Italian with Signora Enrica (Sinyora Enrica ile Italyan Olmak)*** by **Ali Ilhan** starring an admirable **Claudia Cardinale**, with a reception arranged by the **Istanbul Center in Miami**, as well as a **Fundraising and Awards Dinner at Villa Viscuso**, announcing the **SFF Special Lifetime Achievement Award** to be presented to actress **Vanessa Redgrave** in Rome this summer.

While the Sicilian Film Festival's home is Miami Beach, it also hosts events in both the US and other cities worldwide, including last year's presentation of ***Lifetime Achievement Award*** to **Claudia Cardinale** at the **Cannes Film Festival**, of ***Honorary Doctorate in Tourism*** to Miami Beach Vice-Mayor **Michael Gongora** in Caserta, Italy, and of Special Award to Beppe Fiorello at Venice Film Festival, introduced by Laura Delli Colli

Miami Beach Mayor **Matti Bower** stated: "We appreciate the efforts of this Festival in bringing the Sicilian culture to the fore and sharing the beauty and life of Sicily with the people of Miami and the US. Through theater, music, art, and love, boundaries are traversed and all nations learn to share each other's works and get to understand and appreciate different cultures."

The President of the Sicilian Film Festival, **Emanuele Viscuso** says the best way to express the importance of the event is in the famous words of Goethe: "To have seen Italy without seeing Sicily, is not to have seen Italy at all. Sicily is the key to everything."

To learn more about this year's Sicilian Film Festival, 7th Edition visit www.sicilianfilmfestival.com

The VII Sicilian Film Festival is made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and with the support of the Miami Beach Visitor and Convention Authority and the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council.