



TORONTO, ON –MAY, 2009

Toronto International Deaf Film & Arts Festival (TIDFAF) 2009! www.tidfaf.ca May 21-23, 2009

Attn: Arts & Entertainment, Living, Education and Community Reporters/Producers:

This year at TIDFAF we are proud to announce Italian directors **Alessandro Merlini** (*I and My Friend Nike*) and **Girolano Cappadonna** (*The Mysterious Flame*) will be in attendance for interviews on **Friday May 22, 2009**.

“The Toronto International Deaf Film and Arts Festival’s (TIDFAF) goal is to promote cultural diversity, educational awareness and the celebration of emerging Deaf Cinema through the visual medium,” says **Catherine MacKinnon**, Festival Director. “We are especially pleased to welcome our international directors as their work celebrates the many layers of Deaf Cinema across borders. TIDFAF bridges these many experiences in a way and through a platform we have never seen here in Canada before.”

Lo eil mio amico (I and My Friend Nike) directed by Alessandro Merlini is an ode to man’s best friend. It tells the tale of a splendid Labrador, Nike, found abandoned by a man named Hamlet. A tender friendship is formed that will join them for good or for evil in the land of Orden.

La Fiamma Misteriosa (The Mysterious Flame) directed by Girolano Cappadonna is the story of chance encounters and the inspiration that can ensue. Little Oana’s only way to survive is by begging strangers for charity. Desperate to stay warm she keeps her hands from freezing by using the language of the signs and a box of matches. Though they don’t understand her language, passersby’s find themselves deeply moved, especially a woman named Tulia. The flame in Oana’s hands reawakens her secret wish to become a mother, a profound wish that will stay in her heart forever. Both films are subtitled for hearing audiences and the directors will be in the audience for media interviews following the screening of their films.

Film Screening Schedule:

Friday May 22nd

Venue: Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Street, University of Toronto

1:10 - 1:22 lo e il mio amico Nike RT: 11:57 minutes

1:25 - 1:40 La Fiamma Misteriosa RT: 15 minutes

We thank all of our many sponsors, volunteers and particularly our founding media sponsor **Canwest Media Inc.** for making this festival possible. We look forward to your media support as we explore Deaf cinema from across the globe this year at the Toronto International Deaf Film & Arts Festival (TIDFAF). Visit www.tidfaf.ca for film synopses, stills, screening schedules and trailers.

Media Contact for Interviews/Accreditation:

Jill Andrew, Director of Media Relations

Toronto International Film and Arts Festival (TIDFAF)

media@tidfaf.ca CC: andrew5707@rogers.com

Toronto, ON 416-540-6659

www.tidfaf.ca

Founding Sponsor: Canwest Media Inc.

