

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lido Cantarutti, Director of the Italian Film Festival of Marin County,
CA, Honored by the Italian Government**

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA, October 14, 2015—Lido Cantarutti, director of the Italian Film Festival and long-time resident of Marin County, CA, has been acknowledged by the President of the Republic of Italy with the promotion and conferral of the title of *Commendatore dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana* (Knight Commander of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy).

The award recognizes his thirty-nine years as director of the Festival, and his thirty years as an Italian language teacher at the College of Marin, Kentfield, CA. Commendatore is the third of five levels of knighthood. Mr. Cantarutti was previously honored as *Cavaliere* (Knight) and *Cavaliere Ufficiale* (Knight Officer). This year, Commendator Cantarutti is one of only four American-born recipients of this rare honor.

The Order of Merit of the Italian Republic was established in 1951 and is the highest-ranking honor of the Italian Republic. The award recognizes meritorious service to Italy in various cultural fields, including the arts, literature, and public service.

The award will be presented to Commendator Cantarutti by the Honorable Mauro Battocchi, the Consul General of Italy in San Francisco, CA, at the Italian Film Festival on Saturday, October 31, 2015.

The thirty-ninth anniversary year the Italian Film Festival runs through November 7, 2015 at the Marin Center Showcase Theatre in San Rafael, CA. The Festival screens contemporary and classic Italian films in a festive atmosphere. For information and to order tickets, contact the Marin Center Box Office at (415) 473-6800, or visit the Festival's web site at <http://www.italianfilm.com>.

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