



PRESS RELEASE

The Venice Film Festival presents "Finding Vince 400", the international film festival named after St. Vincent de Paul and inspired by the theme of a globalized love

"Finding Vince 400", the International Film Festival dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul, will be officially introduced at the Venice Biennale Cinema 2018 in the context of the 75th International Film Art Exhibition. The presentation will take place on Sunday, 2 September at 12:00 am at the Hotel Excelsior (Meeting Room Tropicana 1) of the Lido di Venezia in the premises of the "Fondazione Ente dello Spettacolo" (Organization for Entertainment Foundation) of CEI, the Italian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Officially introduced in Rome in 2017 during the Symposium for the Fourth Centenary of the Vincentian Charism, "Finding Vince 400" is an attempt to explore the theme of a globalized love in all artistic languages within a film competition. We asked creatives, storytellers, and screenwriters to describe poverty in a new and original way through diverse artistic expressions. Over three thousands of them from 109 countries have responded to the appeal launched by the great Vincentian Family that works all over the world according to the spirit of its founder, St. Vincent de Paul.

There are two sections in which it is possible to take part in the Competition, whose final phase will take place in **Castel Gandolfo, Rome, Italy, October 18 through 21**. "Finding Vince 400", for those who submit a short or a feature film, and "Seeds of hope", for under 18 authors. The proposed theme is the same for both sections: service to the poor. "Plant a seed, watch it grow" is the slogan for the second section, addressing young people: to create an art that inspires a service to the poor. The goal of Finding Vince 400 Film, the organizers write, is to bring together a community of artists who have inspiring ideas on how to change our perspective on poverty. We remind you that the deadline for receiving the

works of art in this category is **Friday, August 31, 2018 at 11:59 pm** (USA-PACIFIC STANDARD TIME); please see the attached explanatory note.

Many artists took to the field to promote "Finding Vince 400"; the last in order of time was Martin Sheen. This well-known North-American actor has always been aware of the importance of social issues and commitment to the community. He recalls in a video message the appeal of Pope Francis addressed to all for a greater commitment in service to the poor, in reference to Jesus' words, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). "Since movies talk a universal language, the aim of the Festival is to reaffirm the power of cinema to globalize love and re-direct poverty in the way St. Vincent de Paul did four centuries ago," explains Martin Sheen. "This international festival will stimulate the authors' imagination by inspiring a new creativity towards poverty to serve the poor with a more adequate response."

VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/283313298/e8faae646e>

***For information
Elena Grazini
Communications
+ 39 338 190 24 36
elena@elenagrazini.it***