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**THE NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL TO PRESENT
OC PREMIERE OF *RED LIKE THE SKY***

Post-screening Gala will Celebrate Italian Cuisine and Culture

Newport Beach, Calif.—(April, 2008) The 2008 Newport Beach Film Festival will host an Italian Spotlight Event, featuring the OC premiere of the award winning Italian film, *Red like the Sky*, (*Rosso come il cielo*). The film screening will take place at the Edwards Island Cinema in Fashion Island located at 999 Newport Center Dr. on Saturday, April 26th at 8:00 pm, followed by a gala at Bloomingdale's.

Directed by Cristiano Bortone, *Red like the Sky* (2007, Drama, Italian with English subtitles, 96 minutes) recounts the saga of a blind child who, during the turbulent 1970s, fights against everything and everyone to reach out for his dreams and his freedom. This inspirational Italian-language drama sends a universally touching message as the daily struggle for a place in society and the desire for confirmation of our human dignity is not limited to a few. What is more, this film represents the first time a sightless person has told his story through cinema—the quintessential visual medium.

Festivities will follow the screening at Bloomingdales of Fashion Island, located at 701 Newport Center Drive, where a unique mixture of Italian film, fashion, and culture aficionados will enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of Italy. Admission to the film screening and post party is \$40.00.

The Italian Spotlight is sponsored by the Italian Consulate General, Los Angeles, National Italian American Foundation, Italian Cultural Institute, Bloomingdales, San Pellegrino and the Orange County Italian Cultural Association.

About the Newport Beach Film Festival:

The ninth annual Newport Beach Film Festival runs April 24th-May 1st, 2008 and will showcase more than 350 films from around the world, offering an ambitious and international selection of feature length narrative, documentary, short and animated films. For tickets, passes, press credentials and a complete Festival schedule, visit the NBFF website at www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com or call (949) 253-2880. Press Kits and Photo Stills are available upon request.