



**CTV Original Movie - In High Definition!**

### **Lives of the Saints (HD)**

**Jan. 2 at 9pm ET** - Sophia Loren headlines an ensemble cast in this CTV original two-part, four-hour mini-series

Jessica Paré, Kris Kristofferson, Fabrizio Filippo, Nick Mancuso co-star and Jerry Ciccoritti directs Italian-Canadian co-production.

Principal photography began on ***Lives of the Saints***, a two-part, four-hour mini-series for CTV last March (2003). Sophia Loren headlines the Canadian-Italian co-production alongside Kris Kristofferson, rising star Canadian actress Jessica Paré, Fabrizio Filippo, Italian sensation Sabrina Ferilli and Nick Mancuso. Gemini-Award-winning director Jerry Ciccoritti directs. The mini-series will enjoy airdates both in Canada on CTV and in Italy on Channel 5.

***Lives of the Saints***, the first from CTV's new movie strand entitled "Heroes, Champions and Villains", will enjoy an unprecedented eight-figure production budget, the biggest budget ever for any CTV original movie or mini-series.

Based on the best-selling, award-winning trilogy by Italian-Canadian author, Nino Ricci, ***Lives of the Saints*** is an epic story of betrayal, suicide and forgiveness, spanning 30 years in the life of a young Italian boy. The story unfolds through time from the horror of 1940's war-torn Italy and the Italian migration to Canada, to Toronto's swinging counter cultural scene of the late '60s, and climaxes in Italy where family secrets and sins are ultimately revealed.

Sophia Loren (A Special Day, Marriage Italian Style) plays a school teacher and doting aunt to the Italian boy, played by Fabrizio Filippo (Waydowntown, Action). Jessica Paré (Stardom, The Death and Life of Nancy Eaton) plays his

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illegitimate sister and Nick Mancuso (Stingray, Under Siege) the immigrant father. Italian actress Sabrina Ferilli (La Belle Vita, Ferie d'Apostol) plays their Italian mother with Kris Kristofferson (A Star Is Born, Lone Star) as the mystery man whose memory has haunted the family for 30 years.

Jerry Ciccoritti (The Many Trials of Jane Doe, Trudeau) directs **Lives of the Saints** on location in Toronto and the surrounding countryside for five weeks before heading to Italy and an abandoned hillside village in Umbria for an additional four weeks.

**Lives of the Saints** is a Canadian-Italian co-production between Toronto-based Capri Films and Italy-based RTI in association with CTV. Producers are Capri's Gabriella Martinelli (Naked Lunch, Romeo & Juliet, M. Butterfly) and Giovanna Arata of RTI (Young Casanova, Doctor Zhivago).

CTV's "Heroes, Champions and Villains" (HCV) is a new strand of CTV original projects focusing on remarkable Canadian personalities and characters, whether fictional or real life. This strand is funded through the BCE-CTV Benefits, a fund of \$45.5 million available for television movie financing that represents a never before financing scenario for Canadian producers. The "Heroes, Champions and Villains" strand will licence an average of two movies per year over seven years.

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