



INDUSTRY EXECUTIVE CLAUDIO RAPINO TO LAUNCH MAESTRO DISTRIBUTION PARTICIPATED BY ILBE AND RS PRODUCTIONS

Italian Industry veteran Claudio Rapino is up to launch Maestro Distribution, a new developing, consulting and distribution company participated by ILBE, RS Productions and Rapino himself.

Maestro Distribution will be launched during the next EFM in Berlin with the aim of presenting the business and looking for projects and partners.

The target of the newco is to work on contents at multiple levels handling development of local features and shows suitable for international exploitation and distribute up to 10 feature films per year. Additionally, Maestro Distribution will provide advisory services to third parties for licensing and library management.

Rapino comes from more than 15 years as Head of Acquisitions and Sales at companies as Leone Film Group, Notorious Pictures, Koch Media and more recently as Head of Content in Movies Inspired.

Rapino will handle the acquisitions and international sales of original and third parties productions and he will direct a team of talented local writers to develop and sell original IPs to producers and International partners.

Rapino says: "With the uncertainties surrounding the Entertainment industry in Italy, it's crucial to build synergies between the development and production phases of each project by creating partnerships with international players from other countries. By reaching a wider international audience and working with partners with different cultural backgrounds it will be possible to develop original contents with the ambition of helping to deliver fresh and innovative stories. Our ambition is to create a company capable of going beyond the limits of national borders focusing on stories and contents to entertain different audiences".

"We are very happy to establish this new company, which for us is another way of approaching the Italian market with even greater strength, while continuing to interact with the international market, as we have always done, to create a diverse line-up and a team of professionals for the production and fruition of our projects. This is why we have chosen EFM to present Maestro Distribution, a place that has always been functional and of unquestionable value for distribution worldwide" said Andrea Iervolino, CEO of ILBE.

"With Maestro Distribution we aim to improve and redefine the way contents are conceived, developed and distributed in Italy and from Italy. We are tackling a clear and untapped market opportunity in the movie industry, and RS Productions, throughout its network and expertise, will support Maestro Distribution in order to provide real benefits to Italian and international movie producers" said Pietro Peligra, CEO of RS Productions.



Iervolino and Lady Bacardi Entertainment

Iervolino and Lady Bacardi Entertainment S.p.A. (ILBE) is a global production company, founded by Andrea Iervolino and Lady Monika Bacardi and active in the production of film and television content including, mainly, films, TV-shows, animated web series.

ILBE productions are frequently welcome to important international festivals. In 2023, ILBE has participated at Rome Film Fest with Paradox Effect, starring Olga Kurylenko and Harvey Keitel; at Taormina Film Fest with In the Fire, starring Amber Heard; the Berlin International Film Festival with the documentary film Le Mura di Bergamo (The Walls of Bergamo); as executive production it participated at Venice Film Festival with Ferrari by Michael Mann starring Adam Driver and Penelope Cruz. ILBE received a nomination at the 2023 Academy Awards for "Applause", song written by Diane Warren and interpreted by Sofia Carson, for the movie Tell it like a Woman, nominee for Best Original Song.

The company also operates through its subsidiaries Arte Video S.r.l., Red Carpet S.r.l., Iervolino & Lady Bacardi Studios d.o.o., Wepost S.r.l., and SoBe Sport S.r.l.

It is listed on Euronext Growth Milan from 2019 - IT0005380602 - IE - and on Euronext Growth Paris - IT0005380602 - ALIE.

In fiscal year 2022 ILBE achieved consolidated revenues of €161 million, EBIT of €21 million, and consolidated net income of €3.5 million; backlog reached €173 million referring to the three fiscal years 2023-2025. www.ilbegroup.it/com

RS Productions

RS Productions, founded in Milan in 2019 by an entrepreneurial group with a broad experience in the media and publishing sectors, is an independent movie production and distribution company. Together with Portobello SpA, the Company owns Web Magazine Makers, a publishing house that holds the license for the iconic magazine "Rolling Stone" in Italy.

RS Productions has realized multiple successful productions, including "Enigma Rol", presented at the 18th edition of the Rome Film Festival, "Franco Battiato – La Voce del Padrone", one of the most watched docufilms in 2022 and winner of a Nastro d'Argento, "I Fratelli De Filippo", awarded with a David di Donatello, a Nastro d'Argento, two Globo d'Oro and two Ciak d'oro, "Franco Zeffirelli, Conformista Ribelle", presented at the 79th edition of the Venice International Film Festival and "Aiuto! È Natale!", featuring Academy Award winner Richard Dreyfuss in the cast. Additionally, the Company has distributed several international productions in Italy, such as "The Book of Vision", "Fabian – Going to the Dogs", "In the Fire" and "Muti", starring the award-winning Morgan Freeman.

Attentive to the constantly evolving market, emerging trends, and new entertainment technologies, the Company launched IMMEDIATE in 2020, the first vertical business accelerator in the media and entertainment industry in Europe; a creative and technological hub that supports the development of startups and innovative projects.

Contacts

Claudio Rapino
Andrea Zoso

cr@maestrodistribution.com
az@maestrodistribution.com