

ROBERT LANTOS



Born in Hungary in 1949, Robert Lantos' family emigrated to Uruguay in 1958 and then to Canada in 1963. They settled in Montreal, where he attended Northmount High School and then McGill University where he received a B.A. and an M.A. (In 2000, he received an Honourary Doctor of Letters from McGill). He was a member of the Montreal YMHA Waterpolo team which won the Canadian Junior Championships in '66 and '67 and became the Canadian Senior Champions in '68 and '69.

In 1972, while still a student at McGill, Robert Lantos began his career by launching Vivafilm with partner Victor Loewy and \$5000 of borrowed funds. In 1975, (with then partner Stephen J. Roth), he founded sister production company RSL films. In 1977, he produced his first feature film, the low budget *L'Ange et la Femme* followed by the international hit *In Praise of Older Women*.

In 1985 RSL and Vivafilm merged with ICC to form Canada's dominant film and television company Alliance Communications Corporation of which he was Co-Chairman. In 1987 he became sole Chairman and CEO. From 1987 to 1998, he led Alliance through a dramatic period of building and expansion, taking the company public in 1993. The Company became a major international force in filmed content production and distribution. In 1995 with the launching of Showcase and History Television, he also made Alliance a key player in Canadian broadcasting. In 1998, Mr. Lantos sold his controlling interest in Alliance and left the company in order to return full time to the creative process.

Robert Lantos' producing career encompasses some 30 motion pictures and numerous television productions. His films include the **Golden Globe** and **Academy Award** nominee *Eastern Promises*, **Academy Award** nominee and **Golden Globe** winner *Being Julia*, **Academy Award** nominee and **Cannes Grand Prix** winner *The Sweet Hereafter*, **Golden Globe** nominee *Sunshine*, and Best Picture **Genie Award** winners *Black Robe* and *Ararat* just to name a few. On ten occasions, a film produced by Mr. Lantos has been selected as the Opening Night Gala of the Toronto International Film Festival and his films have represented Canada nine times in the Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival. His most recent film was *Fugitive Pieces* and coming next is *Adoration* winner of the **Ecumenical Prize** at this year's Cannes Festival.

Mr. Lantos' extensive television credits include the drama series *Due South*, *North of 60*, *E.N.G.*, *Bordertown*, *Night Heat* and *Counterstrike*. He is an eight time winner of the Gemini Award for Best Drama Series.

Mr. Lantos is passionate in his support and commitment to Israel. His first visit to Israel was in 1969, when he played Waterpolo for the Canadian team at the Maccabiah Games. Mr. Lantos travels to Israel regularly and has shot several films there including the 1986 HBO movie *Sword of Gideon* (which 20 years later was remade by Steven Spielberg under the title *Munich*).

Mr. Lantos is a member of the Order of Canada. Other awards include the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Canadian Film Industry", the Toronto Arts Award, the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television's award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Business of Filmmaking in Canada" and has been inducted into the Canadian Film and Television Hall of Fame. Mr. Lantos is a director of Indigo Books & Music and the Jewish Television Network.