

DAY 05

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Colin Firth and Michael Winterbottom: Genova

Highlights:

We sat down with **Michael Winterbottom** and **Colin Firth**, director and star (respectively) of the new film **GENOVA**, the story of an Englishman raising two daughters in the wake of his wife's accidental death.

Happenings:

Michael Winterbottom was born in Blackburn, England. He studied English at Oxford University and film and television at Bristol University and the Polytechnic of Central London. Many of his films have screened at the Festival: his debut *Family* (94), *Butterfly Kiss* (95), *Go Now* (95), *Jude* (96), *Welcome to Sarajevo* (97), *Wonderland* (99), *In This World* (02), *Code 46* (03), *9 Songs* (04), *Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story* (05) and *Genova* (08). His other films include *The Claim* (00), *24 Hour Party People* (02), *The Road to Guantanamo* (06, co-director) and *A Mighty Heart* (07).

Colin Firth was born into an academic family - his father is a history lecturer at Winchester University College (formerly King Alfred's College) in Winchester and his mother is a comparative religions lecturer at the Open University. Colin Firth's first acting experience came in infant's school when he played "Jack Frost" in a Christmas pantomime. Three of his four grandparents were Methodist missionaries and he spent his early childhood in Nigeria, returning to England at age five where he entered a comprehensive school in Winchester. He spent two years at the Drama Centre in Chalk Farm where he was "discovered" while playing "Hamlet" during his final term. His first professional role was as "Bennet" in the West End production of "Another Country". From this ...

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The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) ranks among the most prestigious international film festivals in the world. For ten days, film lovers, filmmakers, industry professionals and media watch the best in new cinema from established masters and new talent.

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