

SEAN CISTERNA
DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER – 2018 BIO



Sean Cisterna is an accomplished award-winning feature film and television director and producer who has worked in the film and television industry in Canada for over 18 years. His projects are frequently distributed in Canada, the United States and around the world.

Cisterna's first produced feature, *My Brother's Keeper* (starring X-Men's Shawn Ashmore and Smallville's Aaron Ashmore) was picked up by Anchor Bay Entertainment; 2008's *King of the Camp* has been airing continually on YTV in Canada and Starz in the US; 2011's *Moon Point* was sold to The Movie Network and was released nationally on DVD/digital in the fall of 2012. His feature length documentary *30 Ghosts* was developed out of the Hot Docs International Documentary Film Festival's Doc Ignite program, and now resides with the National Film Board of Canada.

2015's *Full Out*, a family film about California gymnast Ariana Berlin, soared to the top of the ratings across all non-sports networks when it debuted on Family Channel in Canada. The film stars Jennifer Beals (*Flashdance*) and Ana Golja (*Degrassi*). *Full Out* is currently airing across Disney Europe and was broadcast on over 195 television stations across the United States leading into the 2016 Summer Olympics, and has recently gone global on Netflix Worldwide.

2017's *Kiss and Cry* is based on the true story of Carley Allison, an up-and-coming figure skater and singer who finds love just as she is diagnosed with an incredibly rare cancer. The film was released theatrically in early 2017 by Elevation Pictures and stars Luke Bilyk, Chantal Kreviazuk and Sarah Fisher. The film made national media headlines when it was revealed that Sarah Fisher and Carley Allison were real-life best friends. *Kiss and Cry* is currently on Netflix Worldwide. The film has received strong reviews, and many thousands of emotional audience responses across all social media platforms.

Cisterna has recently started showrunning a TLN Television preschool series called *Mi Nombre Es Ripley*. The language-building show features a curious french bulldog, and is in its fourth season. In addition, he has produced a 15-part comedy/mockumentary webseries called *Lucky 7 Soccer Club*, about a dysfunctional group of young female soccer players, filmed from the perspective of a local community college's media class.

In late 2018, Cisterna directed the feature film *From The Vine Came The Grape*, an international coproduction between Italy and Canada, centred around the world of winemaking. The film, based on the novel *Finding Marco* by Ken Cancellara, stars Emmy winner Joe Pantoliano (*The Sopranos*, *The Matrix*, *Memento*), Canadian Screen Award winner Wendy Crewson (*Air Force One*, *The Santa Clause*) and Italian acting legend Marco Leonardi (*Cinema Paradiso*, *Like Water for Chocolate*).