

Inside the New York City TV Festival



On November 3rd, the Closing Award Ceremony of the [New York City Television Festival](#) presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for over 60 years of golden television to legendary actor Tony LoBianco, known for his starring roles in *The French Connection* and *The Seven's Up*.

The festival, founded in 2018 by Roberto Rizzo (NYCIFF) to celebrate emerging talent of some of the industry's best directors, producers and actors in the golden era of linear and non-linear television debuted in New York City to over 250 guests. Roberto is also the founder and chairman of the New York City International Film Festival which will celebrate its tenth anniversary

The glitzy ceremony, hosted at the Dolby Screening Room in midtown Manhattan over two nights and featured over 13 exclusive screenings of top TV series and shorts from celebrated filmmakers from Russia, Iceland and the United States.

The VIP cocktail was hosted by presenting sponsor, Russian Standard Vodka, one of the world's premium clear spirits who provided their signature cocktail, the Moscow Mule for guests to enjoy. On Saturday night, the cast and crew of Russian Nationals, led a toast to celebrate their television show based on the story a Russian immigrant's journey to New York City at the Screening Finale. The emcee for the night was Steve Stanulis, known for his starring role in Wasted Talent with Lilo Brancato and presented the Rising Star Award to Jeff Lima, who starred alongside Ryan Gosling in Oscar nominate movie, Half Nelson and has a recurring role on NBC drama, Chicago Fire.

For the closing presentation, Tony LoBianco was invited to the stage to pay tribute to the service men and women in the US Armed Forces by reciting an emotional rendition of "A Soldier Died Today" in celebration of Veteran's Day on November 12th.