

Italian Makeup Artists Win Oscar

Samantha Janazzo (February 27, 2017)



Alessandro Bertolazzi and Giorgio Gregorini, along with American Christopher Nelson, took the award for "Best Makeup" in the movie "Suicide Squad." In his speech, Bertolazzi acknowledged his roots and stated that he is proud of being Italian: "I am Italian. This Oscar is for all the immigrants."

Talent, hard work, and competition are the three ingredients that have kept the [Academy Awards](#) [2] thriving since 1929. Although many left the ceremony victorious, one group that emerged particularly proudly is the Italian community. Italian makeup artists [Alessandro Bertolazzi](#) [3], [Giorgio Gregorini](#) [4], and [Christopher Nelson](#) [5] took home the [Oscar](#) [6] for "[Best Makeup](#) [7]" in the action thriller movie [Suicide Squad](#) [8], which triumphed over [Star Trek Beyond](#) [9] and [A Man Called Ove](#) [10].

As many people know, each [acceptance speech](#) [11] must be kept brief or else an orchestra chimes in to politely remind the victor to wrap it up. Bertolazzi's speech was definitely brief; however it contained a powerful message: "I am an immigrant," he stated proudly before continuing, "I come



from Italy, and I work around the world; this is for all the immigrants,” he chanted as he held his Oscar high in the air, his teammates on either side with smiles beaming on their faces.

The words resonated through the air and floated over the room sparkling with gold and Hollywood’s elite. Though [Gianfranco Rosi](#) [12]’s documentary about the [African immigration crisis in Italy](#) [13] called [Fuocoammare](#) [14] (Fire at Sea) did not take the Oscar for [Best Documentary Feature](#) [15], the Italian community still spoke on behalf of the immigrants in this country and around the world through Bertolazzi’s short and meaningful statement.

It is no surprise that *Suicide Squad* took the prize for best makeup. What would [Harley Quinn](#) [16] be without her iconic red and blue eye shadow with corresponding pigtails, or the [Joker](#) [17]’s disturbing white clown like mask and facial scarring, or [Deadshot](#) [18]’s Bane-like covering? Each look was perfectly executed by Alessandro Bertolazzi and his incredible design team, resulting in an award winning film.

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