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**‘AFI’S 100 YEARS...100 PASSIONS’  
TO EMBRACE AMERICA’S GREATEST LOVE STORIES**

**AFI Invites Moviegoers to Fall in Love Again with America’s First Century of Film**

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LOS ANGELES, November 14, 2001—The American Film Institute (AFI) today announced “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Passions,” the fifth in a successful series celebrating the centennial of American cinema. “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Passions” will reveal America’s 100 America’s greatest love stories, as chosen by leaders of the entertainment community, in a three-hour television event.

“AFI’s 100 Years...100 Passions” will air on the CBS Television Network in June 2002. For the fifth consecutive year, the primetime special will be executive produced and directed by Gary Smith; executive produced for AFI by former AFI Board chair Frederick S. Pierce; and produced by Dann Netter and Bob Gazzale.

“AFI’s 100 Years...100 Movies” (1998), “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Stars” (1999), “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Laughs” (2000) and “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Thrills” (2001) were each watched by millions of people, igniting a national debate and driving movie lovers back to the classics. “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Passions” will add to the existing programs by highlighting the complex, cinematic tales of the heart that have become an abiding part of American film history.

"AFI selected ‘America’s Greatest Love Stories’ as the theme for its ongoing celebration of the cinema centennial before the tragic events of September 11, 2001," stated AFI’s Director and CEO Jean Picker Firstenberg. "As we move forward, we are now—more than ever—reminded that the movies tell stories that move us and bring us together; and though the lovers on screen may end up apart when the lights come up, we—the movie lovers—remain bound by their emotional journey."

(MORE)

AFI has distributed a ballot with 400 nominated films to a jury of 1,800 leaders from the creative community, including film artists (directors, screenwriters, actors, editors, cinematographers) critics and historians. The jurors have been asked to consider the following criteria in their selections:

FEATURE-LENGTH FICTION FILM Narrative format, typically over 60 minutes in length.

AMERICAN FILM English language film with significant creative and/or production elements from the United States.

LOVE STORY Regardless of genre, a romantic bond between two or more characters, whose actions and/or intentions provide the heart of the film's narrative.

LEGACY Films whose "passions" have enriched America's film and cultural heritage while continuing to inspire contemporary artists and audiences.

Cadillac and other General Motors' brands are returning as sponsors of "AFI's 100 Years...100 Passions."

AFI is the preeminent organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI trains the next generation of moving image artists, provides leadership in the nationwide film and television preservation effort and explores new technologies in the digital media arts. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival, the AFI National Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the annual AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its award-winning Web site, located at [www.AFIONline.org](http://www.AFIONline.org).

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