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**“THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING”
IS AFI MOVIE OF THE YEAR**

In Major AFI Awards for Television, “The Sopranos” is AFI Drama Series of the Year, “Curb Your Enthusiasm” is AFI Comedy Series of the Year, and “Band of Brothers” is AFI Movie/Mini-Series of the Year

Nineteen film and television awards presented during live, three-hour CBS program from Beverly Hills, California

Los Angeles (January 5, 2002) – The American Film Institute (AFI) launched a new chapter in the esteemed organization’s national mandate when it presented its first annual *AFI Awards* this evening at the historic Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The three-hour program was broadcast live on the CBS Television Network and honored the collaborative teams and individuals who created the year’s most outstanding achievements in film and television.

The recipients of these first *AFI Awards* are:

AFI AWARDS FOR MOTION PICTURES

AFI Movie of the Year

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING
Producers: Barrie M. Osborne, Peter Jackson, Fran Walsh, Tim Sanders
New Line

AFI Actor of the Year – Male – Movies

Denzel Washington... as Alonzo Harris in TRAINING DAY

AFI Actor of the Year – Female – Movies

Sissy Spacek... as Ruth Fowler in IN THE BEDROOM

AFI Featured Actor of the Year – Male – Movies

Gene Hackman... as Royal Tenenbaum in THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

AFI Featured Actor of the Year – Female – Movies

Jennifer Connelly... as Alicia Nash in A BEAUTIFUL MIND

AFI Director of the Year

Robert Altman – GOSFORD PARK

AFI Screenwriter of the Year

Christopher Nolan -- MEMENTO

AFI Cinematographer of the Year

Roger Deakins – THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE

AFI Editor of the Year

Jill Bilcock – MOULIN ROUGE

AFI Production Designer of the Year

Grant Major – THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

AFI Digital Effects Artist of the Year

Jim Rygiel – THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

AFI Composer of the Year

Craig Armstrong – MOULIN ROUGE

AFI AWARDS FOR TELEVISION

AFI Drama Series of the Year

“The Sopranos” (HBO)

AFI Comedy Series of the Year

“Curb Your Enthusiasm” (HBO)

AFI Movie or Mini-Series of the Year

“Band of Brothers” (HBO)

AFI Actor of the Year – Male – TV Series

James Gandolfini... as Tony Soprano in “The Sopranos” (HBO)

AFI Actor of the Year – Female – TV Series

Edie Falco... as Carmela Soprano in “The Sopranos” (HBO)

AFI Actor of the Year – Male – TV Movie or Mini-Series

Jeffrey Wright... as Martin Luther King, Jr. in “Boycott” (HBO)

AFI Actor of the Year – Female – TV Movie or Mini-Series

Judy Davis... as Judy Garland in “Life With Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows” (ABC)

AFI's unique nomination and selection process brought together experts from across the film and television communities. The nominees were selected in December by two AFI Nominating Committees – one for motion pictures and one for television – comprised of film and television artists, scholars, critics and AFI Trustees. Award recipients were then selected by 100 members of an *AFI Awards 2001* Jury. Members of both AFI Nominating Committees and the *AFI Awards 2001* Jury have been announced by AFI. The independent accounting firm of Ernst & Young LLP tabulated the results.

AFI Awards 2001 was executive produced by Gary Smith and executive produced for AFI by Frederick S. Pierce. Dann Netter and Bob Gazzale produced *AFI Awards 2001*. The program was directed by Allan Kartun and written by Gazzale.

In support of AFI's national mission, Target Stores, the upscale discount retailer and sponsor of *AFI Awards 2001*, will fund 20 scholarships at the prestigious AFI Conservatory to be established in the names of the presenters on *AFI Awards 2001*. Founded in 1969, the AFI Conservatory has trained many of the most accomplished film and television artists working today in six behind-the-camera disciplines: directing, writing, producing, editing, cinematography and production design. Presenters for *AFI Awards 2001*, who will each have AFI-Target scholarships established in their name, include: Joan Allen, Natalie Cole, Alan Cumming, Dennis Franz, Andy Garcia, Rachel Griffiths, Daryl Hannah, Steve Harris, Patricia Heaton, Samuel L. Jackson, Allison Janney, Diane Keaton, Ben Kingsley, Eugene Levy, William H. Macy, Joe Mantegna, Haley Joel Osment, Michelle Pfeiffer, and keynote speaker Dustin Hoffman.

More information about *AFI Awards 2001*, including the full list of nominations and award recipients, the names and bios of the AFI Nominating Committees and the *AFI Awards 2001* Jury as well as other background, can be found attached or by visiting www.AFI.com.

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 at www.AFI.com.

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