



**THIRD ANNUAL AFI ALMANAC,
TO ANNOUNCE HONOREES ON DECEMBER 16
AND FETE CREATIVE TEAMS ON JANUARY 16
AT AFI AWARDS LUNCHEON**

LOS ANGELES, October 1, 2002 – **AFI AWARDS 2002**, the third chapter in the American Film Institute's (AFI) annual almanac that records and preserves the evolution of the moving image arts in the 21st Century, will be announced on Monday, December 16. AFI will then host a first-time luncheon on Thursday, January 16, 2003, to honor the creative ensembles that have created the year's outstanding achievements in film and television.

Ten "AFI Movies of the Year," 10 "AFI Television Programs of the Year" and 10 "AFI Moments of Significance" will be determined by AFI's unique selection process that has been compared to the Pulitzer Prize.

AFI honorees are selected by a jury – one for motion pictures and one for television. Thirteen members of each jury will discuss, debate and determine the ten most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year, which will be announced in alphabetical order. Each jury will also select up to five respective "AFI Moments of Significance."

Each AFI jury consists of one chair, three film/television scholars, three film/television artists, three film/television critics and three AFI Trustees. The members of the juries will be revealed when their decisions are announced on December 16.

"AFI's role in the first century of film was to play catch-up – to save our cultural heritage," says Jean Picker Firstenberg, AFI Director and CEO. "AFI AWARDS was created at the dawn of the new century to document excellence – and thereby preserve it – year by year. Each year, AFI considers several options for archiving the year – a television program, a published book, via the Internet, or a special event. These will change over time, but the crucial point is that AFI is protecting the legacy of the moving image art form so that future generations will have a greater understanding and appreciation for its past."

Films eligible for AFI AWARDS 2002 must be full-length American, English-speaking motion pictures in narrative fiction format, over 60 minutes long, with significant creative and/or production elements from the United States with original release dates between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2002.

For television, American/English-language programs, originated for television as either a series, movie or mini-series, with significant creative and/or production elements from the United States, which were broadcast during "prime time" in 2002, are eligible.

The AFI Moments of Significance may include accomplishments of considerable merit; influences with either a positive or negative impression; trends, either new or re-emerging; anniversaries or memories of special note, and/or movements in new technologies, education, preservation, government or other areas that impact the art of the moving image. Potential AFI Moments of Significance will be recommended by AFI Board Members, AFI historians and others. AFI Jury members may also nominate additional moments they consider worthy.

Deadline for television submissions is Friday, November 8, and the deadline for motion picture submissions is Monday, December 2. Details about the nomination process and lists of past AFI Awards honorees are available on AFI's website at 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 filmmakers, coordinates nationwide film preservation efforts and explores new technologies in movie-making. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST), the AFI National Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland (opening in 2003) 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 Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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