



NEWS RELEASE

**ROBERT DE NIRO
TO RECEIVE
31st AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**AFI and USA Network Continue Relationship
To Present AFI Life Achievement Award Tribute**

LOS ANGELES, CA, November 1, 2002—Robert De Niro has been selected by the American Film Institute's (AFI) Board of Trustees to receive the 31st AFI Life Achievement Award, it was announced today by Howard Stringer, Chair of the AFI Board of Trustees.

The Award will be given to De Niro at a tribute on June 12, 2003, which will be held in the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland.

Mr. Stringer commented, "Robert De Niro is one of the greatest actors of his generation. In a career that includes over 60 motion pictures, De Niro's sense of commitment to the character—both mentally and physically—has changed the way we look at an actor's contribution to the art form. His achievements are among the hallmarks of American storytelling: RAGING BULL, TAXI DRIVER, THE GODFATHER PART II and THE DEER HUNTER. We are thrilled to honor his past work and to celebrate his future contributions to film."

USA Network will broadcast the 31st AFI Life Achievement Award tribute in June 2003, continuing its multi-year relationship which began last year. Bob Gazzale, who produced and wrote the AFI Tributes to Tom Hanks and Barbra Streisand, will serve as Executive Producer.

About Robert De Niro

Widely regarded as one the most skillful actors of the past three decades, Robert De Niro made his reputation portraying powerful, memorable men, with characterizations fueled by an almost superhuman gusto. As a two-time Academy Award winner, he has worked with some of the greatest directors of our time, bringing to life stories and characters that have become a permanent part of our cultural history.

Robert De Niro launched his prolific motion picture career in Brian De Palma's *THE WEDDING PARTY* in 1969. By 1973, De Niro twice won the New York Film Critics' Award for Best Supporting Actor in recognition of his critically acclaimed performances in *BANG THE DRUM SLOWLY* and Martin Scorsese's *MEAN STREETS*.

In 1974, De Niro received the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the young Vito Corleone in *THE GODFATHER, PART II*. In 1980, he won his second Oscar, as Best Actor, for his extraordinary portrayal of Jake La Motta in Scorsese's *RAGING BULL*. De Niro has earned Academy Award nominations for his work in four additional films: for his role as Travis Bickle in Scorsese's acclaimed *TAXI DRIVER*, as a Vietnam vet in Michael Cimino's *THE DEER HUNTER*, as a catatonic patient brought to life in Penny Marshall's *AWAKENINGS*, and in 1992, for his role as Max Cady, an ex-con looking for revenge, in Scorsese's remake of the 1962 classic *CAPE FEAR*.

De Niro's distinguished body of work also includes performances in Elia Kazan's *THE LAST TYCOON*, Bernardo Bertolucci's *1900*, Ulu Grosbard's *TRUE CONFESSIONS* and *FALLING IN LOVE*, Sergio Leone's *ONCE UPON A TIME IN AMERICA*, Scorsese's *KING OF COMEDY*, *NEW YORK, NEW YORK*, *GOODFELLAS*, and *CASINO*, Terry Gilliam's *BRAZIL*, Roland Joffe's *THE MISSION*, Brian De Palma's *THE UNTOUCHABLES*, Alan Parker's *ANGEL HEART*, Martin Brest's *MIDNIGHT RUN*, David Jones' *JACKKNIFE*, Martin Ritt's *STANLEY AND IRIS*, Neil Jordan's *WE'RE NO ANGELS*, Penny Marshall's *AWAKENINGS*, Ron Howard's *BACKDRAFT*, Michael Caton-Jones' *THIS BOY'S LIFE*, John McNaughton's *MAD DOG AND GLORY*, *A BRONX TALE*, Kenneth Branagh's *MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN*, Michael Mann's *HEAT*, Barry Levinson's *SLEEPERS* and *WAG THE DOG*, Jerry Zaks' *MARVIN'S ROOM*, Tony Scott's *THE FAN*, James Mangold's *COPLAND*, Alfonso Cuarón's *GREAT EXPECTATIONS* and Quentin Tarantino's *JACKIE BROWN*, John Frankenheimer's *RONIN*, Harold Ramis' *ANALYZE THIS*, Joel Schumacher's *FLAWLESS*, Des McNuff's *ROCKY AND BULLWINKLE*, Jay Roach's, *MEET THE PARENTS*, George Tillman's *MEN OF HONOR* and John Herzfeld's *FIFTEEN MINUTES*, Frank Oz's *THE SCORE*, Tom Dey's *SHOWTIME* and Michael Caton-Jones' *CITY BY THE SEA*. He will next be seen in Harold Ramis' *ANALYZE THAT*, a sequel to *ANALYZE THIS*. He just started production in Nick Hamm's *GODSEND*, which is due out in 2003. De Niro takes pride in the development of his production company, Tribeca Productions, and the Tribeca Film Center, which he founded with

Jane Rosenthal in 1988. Through Tribeca, he develops projects on which he serves in a combination of capacities, including producer, director and actor.

Tribeca's A BRONX TALE marked De Niro's directorial debut. Other Tribeca features include THUNDERHEART, CAPE FEAR, MISTRESS, NIGHT AND THE CITY, THE NIGHT WE NEVER MET, FAITHFUL, PANTHER, MARVIN'S ROOM, WAG THE DOG, ANALYZE THIS, FLAWLESS, ROCKY AND BULLWINKLE and MEET THE PARENTS.

In 1992, Tribeca TV was launched with the critically acclaimed series TRIBECA. De Niro served as one of the series executive producers. In 1998, Tribeca produced a miniseries for NBC, based on the life of SAMMY 'THE BULL' GRAVANO. Tribeca Productions is headquartered at De Niro's Tribeca Film Center, in the TriBeCa district of New York. The Film Center is a state-of-the-art office building designed for the film and television industry. The eight-story facility features office space, a screening room, banquet hall and restaurant, in addition to a full range of services for entertainment industry professionals.

About the AFI Life Achievement Award

The highest honor given for a career in film, the AFI Life Achievement Award was established by the AFI Board of Trustees on February 26, 1973. It is presented to a single honoree each year based on the following criteria as mandated through a resolution passed by the AFI Board of Trustees:

"The recipient should be one whose talent has in a fundamental way advanced the film art; whose accomplishment has been acknowledged by scholars, critics, professional peers and the general public; and whose work has stood the test of time."

In 1993, the trustees extended the criteria to encompass "individuals with active careers and work of significance yet to be accomplished."

AFI Life Achievement Recipients

Robert De Niro joins an esteemed group of individuals who have been chosen for this distinguished honor since its inception in 1973.

1973	John Ford	1975	Orson Welles
1974	James Cagney	1976	William Wyler

1977	Bette Davis	1990	Sir David Lean
1978	Henry Fonda	1991	Kirk Douglas
1979	Alfred Hitchcock	1992	Sidney Poitier
1980	James Stewart	1993	Elizabeth Taylor
1981	Fred Astaire	1994	Jack Nicholson
1982	Frank Capra	1995	Steven Spielberg
1983	John Huston	1996	Clint Eastwood
1984	Lillian Gish	1997	Martin Scorsese
1985	Gene Kelly	1998	Robert Wise
1986	Billy Wilder	1999	Dustin Hoffman
1987	Barbara Stanwyck	2000	Harrison Ford
1988	Jack Lemmon	2001	Barbra Streisand
1989	Gregory Peck	2002	Tom Hanks

About USA Networks

USA Network is cable television's leading provider of original series and feature movies, sports events, off-net television shows and blockbuster theatrical films. USA Network is available in 82% of all U.S. homes, and is seen in 86 million U.S. homes. The USA Network Web site is located at www.usanetwork.com.

USA Network is a program service of Universal Television Group (www.universalstudios.com), a division of Vivendi UNIVERSAL Entertainment (VUE), the U.S.-based film, television and recreation entity of Vivendi Universal, a global media and communications company.

About the American Film Institute

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. Opening in 2003, the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center will offer a year-round program of the best in American and international cinema, featuring an eclectic mix of festivals, premieres, retrospectives, special events, tributes, guest appearances and education program.

More information about AFI can be found by visiting its award-winning Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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