



NEWS RELEASE

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS DURING 40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

George Stevens, Jr., Tom Pollock and Sir Howard Stringer to be Honored as part of AFI Conservatory Commencement Ceremonies on June 6, 2007

LOS ANGELES, CA, May 31, 2007—American Film Institute (AFI) announced today it will confer honorary degrees on three key figures from the institute's 40-year history: George Stevens, Jr., award-winning producer and founding director of AFI; Tom Pollock, partner, The Montecito Picture Company, vice chair and chair emeritus, AFI Board of Trustees; and Sir Howard Stringer, chair and CEO, Sony Corporation and chair, AFI Board of Trustees.

The honors will be presented as part of the Commencement ceremony for the AFI Conservatory and recognize the outstanding contributions made to AFI by each recipient. This is one of many celebrations slated in 2007 that will honor the history of the institute as AFI celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

Previous recipients of AFI Honorary Degrees include Robert Altman, Maya Angelou, Michelangelo Antonioni, Steven Bochco, Roger Corman, Robert Daly, Norah Ephron, Lee Grant, Ray Harryhausen, Chuck Jones, John Lasseter, Karl Malden, Gena Rowlands, Thelma Schoonmaker, Jack Valenti, Haskell Wexler and Alfre Woodard.

Two notable AFI alumni will participate in the presentation of the honorary degrees: director David Lynch will present to George Stevens, Jr. and producer/director and co-chair of AFI's Board of Directors Jon Avnet will present to Tom Pollock. Sir Howard Stringer will be presented his degree by writer/director/producer James L. Brooks.

The AFI Conservatory offers a two-year accredited MFA program, granting degrees in six filmmaking disciplines—Cinematography, Directing, Editing, Producing, Production

Design and Screenwriting. World-renowned for its advanced professional training, AFI's program is designed to nurture the talents and enhance the skills of tomorrow's leading storytellers in the global motion picture and television professions. The curriculum focuses on narrative, visual storytelling through hands-on collaboration, taught by working professionals from the film, television and digital media communities. The AFI Conservatory has trained more than 3,000 artists since its founding in 1969. These graduates have, and will continue to have, a major impact on the art of film, television and digital media

About the American Film Institute

AFI celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2007.

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory, maintains America's film heritage through the *AFI Catalog of Feature Films* and explores new digital technologies in entertainment and education through the AFI Digital Content Lab and K-12 Screen Education Center. As the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, AFI ON SCREEN encompasses the annual AFI FEST presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival—as well as year-round programming at ArcLight Hollywood and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, including SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival. AFI AWARDS, the annual almanac for the 21st century, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year, while **AFI's 100 Years . . .** series has ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. And, during the past 34 years, AFI's Life Achievement Award has become the highest honor for a career in film. Additional information about AFI is available at AFI.com.

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