



NEWS RELEASE

GARY WINICK TO RECEIVE THE 17TH ANNUAL FRANKLIN J. SCHAFFNER ALUMNI MEDAL

Honor to be Presented at
AFI Life Achievement Award Tribute to Al Pacino on June 7

LOS ANGELES, CA, June 5, 2007—American Film Institute (AFI) today announced that director/producer Gary Winick will receive the 2007 Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal. Winick will be presented with the medal as part of the AFI Life Achievement Award Tribute to Al Pacino on June 7, 2007, which will be held at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland.

The Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal recognizes the extraordinary creative talents of a graduate of the AFI Conservatory or of the Directing Workshop for Women who symbolizes the legacy of Franklin Schaffner. Established in 1991 by Franklin J. Schaffner's widow, Jean, the Alumni Medal celebrates the qualities associated with the late director: talent, taste, dedication and commitment to quality filmmaking. Over the course of a remarkable 40-year career, Schaffner earned a total of 28 Academy Award nominations and the directing Oscar for *PATTON* in 1970. Schaffner's association with AFI began in 1975, with his election to the Board of Trustees, and lasted until his death in 1989.

Jean Picker Firstenberg, AFI, Director and CEO commented, "Gary's unique voice as a storyteller and his contribution to the world of cinema serves as an inspiration to future filmmakers. We are extraordinarily proud of his leadership in the digital era." Additionally, Firstenberg said, "This is a sad moment because Jean Schaffner passed away on May 12. But her husband's legacy at AFI will be graciously continued by their daughters."

Gary Winick earned his BA at Tufts University and his MFA from the University of Texas and the American Film Institute. He taught at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts for seven years, and in 1999 teamed up with John Sloss and IFC Productions to create Independent Digital Entertainment (InDigEnt). InDigEnt is dedicated to exploratory digital cinema, drawing on established screenwriters, directors, and actors. Filmmakers agreed to work within the framework of budgetary and technical limitations in exchange for an innovative financial structure and total creative freedom.

Winick produced all of InDigEnt's films including Ethan Hawke's CHELSEA WALLS, Rebecca Miller's PERSONAL VELOCITY, Wim Wenders' LAND OF PLENTY, Richard Linklater's TAPE and Steve Buscemi's LONESOME JIM. All 17 films played at major film festivals including the Toronto International Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival and Venice Film Festival. Nine premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in the Dramatic Competition, winning 2 cinematography awards, the directing award and the grand jury prize. Other awards include John Cassavetes Independent Spirit Award, the UNESCO Award—and Patricia Clarkson was nominated for a Golden Globe and an Academy Award for best supporting actress in Peter Hegdes' PIECES OF APRIL.

Winick's film directing credits include CURFEW (1988), OUT OF THE RAIN (1991), SWEET NOTHING (1996) and THE TIC CODE (2000). He directed two digital feature films, SAM THE MAN (2000) and TADPOLE (2002), starring Sigourney Weaver, John Ritter, Bebe Neuwirth and Aaron Stanford. TADPOLE won the Best Director Award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. More recently Winick directed 13 GOING ON 30 (2004) starring Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo for Revolution Studios, and CHARLOTTE'S WEB (2006) starring Dakota Fanning and Julia Roberts for Paramount Pictures. Winick just completed the pilot for LIPSTICK JUNGLE (2007) starring Brooke Shields, Kim Raver and Lindsay Price, to be aired on NBC.

The 16 prior recipients of the Schaffner Alumni Medal are David Lynch (1991), Edward Zwick (1992), Randa Haines (1993), Martin Brest (1994), Jon Avnet (1995), Carl Franklin (1996), John McTiernan (1997), Amy Heckerling (1998), Mimi Leder (1999), Terrence Malick (2000), Darren Aronofsky (2001), Todd Field (2002), John Dahl (2003), Patty Jenkins (2004), Paul Schrader (2005) and Marshall Herskovitz (2006).

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