



NEWS RELEASE

AFI AWARDS 2008 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

Ninth Annual AFI Almanac Honors 10 Most Outstanding Motion Pictures and TV Programs of the Year

LOS ANGELES, December 14, 2008—American Film Institute (AFI) today announced the official selections of AFI AWARDS 2008, AFI's almanac that records the year's most outstanding achievements in film and television, as well as significant moments in the world of the moving image.

AFI AWARDS is the only recognition that honors the film and television creative ensembles as a whole—those both in front of and behind the camera—acknowledging the collaborative nature of film and television.

Unlike any other film or television award, the AFI AWARDS 2008 selections are made through AFI's unique 13-person jury process in which scholars, film artists, critics and AFI trustees discuss, debate and determine the most outstanding achievements of the year, as well as provide a detailed rationale for each selection. Two AFI juries—one for motion pictures and one for television—convened in Los Angeles for two days of deliberations at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel. The jurors have remained confidential until today. (Complete list is below.)

AFI will honor the creative ensembles for each of the selections at a luncheon sponsored by Hewlett-Packard on Friday, January 9, 2009 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles, California. The luncheon is by invitation only.

Once again, HP has created scholarships for the AFI Conservatory in conjunction with their support of the AFI AWARDS. The AFI Conservatory is world-renowned for its advanced training of the next generation of storytellers.

“AFI AWARDS honors the community of artists who come together each year to create films and television programs of excellence. They are not competitors at an event, but

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colleagues, in a world that needs art and entertainment more than ever,” commented Bob Gazzale, AFI’s President and CEO.

The honorees are listed below in alphabetical order:

**AFI MOVIES OF THE YEAR—OFFICIAL
SELECTIONS**

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

THE DARK KNIGHT

FROST/NIXON

FROZEN RIVER

GRAN TORINO

IRON MAN

MILK

WALL•E

WENDY AND LUCY

THE WRESTLER

**AFI TV PROGRAMS OF THE YEAR—OFFICIAL
SELECTIONS**

BREAKING BAD

IN TREATMENT

JOHN ADAMS

LIFE

LOST

MAD MEN

THE OFFICE

RECOUNT

THE SHIELD

THE WIRE

AFI AWARDS 2008 JURORS

AFI JURY FOR MOTION PICTURES

Leonard Maltin
Chair, AFI Jury for Motion Pictures
ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT

Jeanine Basinger
Wesleyan University

Mary Corey
University of California, Los Angeles

Mark Harris
Author
Entertainment Weekly

Jim Hosney
American Film Institute

Rick Jewell
University of Southern California

Elvis Mitchell
THE TREATMENT

Daniel Petrie, Jr.
Writer/Producer/Director

Tom Pollock
Producer
Vice Chair and Chair Emeritus, AFI Board of Trustees

Richard Schickel
Time

Vivian Sobchack
University of California, Los Angeles
AFI Trustee Emeritus

Anne Thompson
Variety

Robert Towne
Writer/Producer/Director

AFI JURY FOR TELEVISION

Richard Frank
Chair, AFI Jury for Television
AFI Trustee Emeritus

Neal Baer
Writer/Producer

John Caldwell
University of California, Los Angeles

Jean Picker Firstenberg
AFI President Emerita

Mary McNamara

Los Angeles Times

Kathleen Nolan
Actor

James Poniewozik
Time

Del Reisman
Writer
Senior Lecturer, AFI Conservatory

Matt Roush
TV Guide

Ellen Seiter
University of Southern California

John Shaffner
President, Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

Beretta E. Smith-Shomade
University of Arizona

Tony To
Director/Producer

CRITERIA

Each year, AFI AWARDS honors excellence in American film and television by recognizing the creative ensembles that collaborate to create the year's outstanding movies and television programs, all of which best advanced the art of the moving image; enhanced the rich cultural heritage of America's art form; inspired audiences and artists alike; and/or made a mark on American society.

AFI will consider eligible any film that fulfills the following criteria:

FEATURE-LENGTH MOTION PICTURE
Narrative fiction format, over 60 minutes in length.

AMERICAN

Motion picture with significant creative and/or production elements from the United States. The motion picture need not be presented in the English language if it is incontrovertibly American.

THEATRICALY-RELEASED

Motion pictures originally released between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, which have premiered in a commercial theater and screened for at least five consecutive days in Los Angeles or New York City.

AFI will consider eligible any television program that fulfills the following criteria:

TELEVISION PROGRAM

Narrative fiction format, originated for television as either a series, movie or mini-series.

AMERICAN

English language programs with significant creative and/or production elements from the United States.

BROADCAST

First-run programs airing for American audiences on network or cable television between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008. Only programs broadcast Monday through Saturday, between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Eastern/Pacific, and Sundays, between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Eastern/Pacific, are eligible.

About the American Film Institute

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, preserves the legacy of America's film heritage through the AFI Catalog of Feature Films, and explores new digital technologies at AFI's Digital Content Lab. For 37 years, the AFI Life Achievement Award has remained the highest honor for a career in film. **AFI's 100 Years . . .** series has introduced and reintroduced millions of film lovers to classic American movies. And as the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the United States, AFI's festivals include AFI FEST presented by Audi in Los Angeles, the AFI Dallas International Film Festival Presented by Target, Founding Sponsor Victory Park, and SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival in Silver Spring, Maryland, while offering year-round programming at the ArcLight Theaters and Skirball Center in Los Angeles, and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in the Washington, DC area. Additional information about AFI is available at AFI.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

The complete jury rationales for each AFI AWARDS selection and the AFI AWARDS Moments of Significance will be distributed at a later date.

Press coverage of the AFI AWARDS luncheon is very limited and by invitation only. Photos and video footage will both be available through AFI immediately following the event on January 9, 2009.

CONTACT:

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