



NEWS RELEASE

MARK WATERS TO RECEIVE THE 18TH ANNUAL FRANKLIN J. SCHAFFNER ALUMNI MEDAL

Honor to be Presented at
36th AFI Life Achievement Award Tribute to Warren Beatty on June 12

LOS ANGELES, CA, June 9, 2008—American Film Institute (AFI) today announced that director Mark Waters will receive the 2008 Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal. Waters will be presented with the medal as part of the AFI Life Achievement Award honoring Warren Beatty on June 12, 2008, to be held at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland.

Bob Gazzale, AFI President and CEO commented, "Mark Waters was a member of the extraordinary directing class of '92 at the AFI Conservatory, graduating alongside Darren Aronofsky, Doug Ellin and Todd Field. His is a distinct new voice in American film, and we are both proud of his contribution to the art form as well as all that lies ahead in his future."

Waters made his feature film directing and screenwriting debut with the edgy HOUSE OF YES starring Parker Posey—a favorite on the 1997 film festival circuit and nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. He then directed HEAD OVER HEELS (2001) with Freddie Prinze, Jr. and the VH1 original movie WARNING: PARENTAL ADVISOR (2002), a comedic drama about the government crusade to label music videos and albums.

His first critical and commercial success came with the 2003 comedy FREAKY FRIDAY, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. He followed the next year with another popular teen comedy, MEAN GIRLS, scripted by and starring Tina Fey and co-starring Lindsay Lohan; and in 2005 he directed the romantic comedy JUST LIKE HEAVEN, starring Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo.

With *THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES* in 2008, Waters crossed into the fantasy/special effects genre with his direction of the screen adaptation of the bestselling children's books, solidifying his status as one of the most sought-after and versatile directors in Hollywood.

The 17 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), Marshall Herskovitz (2006) and Gary Winick (2007).

The Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal recognizes the extraordinary creative talents of a graduate of the AFI Conservatory or of the AFI Directing Workshop for Women who symbolizes the legacy of Franklin Schaffner. 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 AFI Board of Trustees, and lasted until his death in 1989.

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