



NEWS RELEASE

MIKE NICHOLS TO RECEIVE 38th AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 11, 2009- Mike Nichols has been selected by the American Film Institute's (AFI) Board of Trustees to receive the 38th AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor for a career in film, it was announced today by Sir Howard Stringer, Chair of the AFI Board of Trustees.

The award will be presented to Nichols at a gala tribute in Los Angeles next summer.

Upon being notified of the honor, Nichols said, "I'm surprised and pleased. The AFI award is truly an honor. I feel very blessed. I was watching *THE GRADUATE* on my Blackberry last week and it really holds up."

"Genius is a word oft overused in our world, but surely not in the case of Mike Nichols," said Stringer. "His artistry has spanned the mediums of modern storytelling – movies, television and the stage – and his gifts across five decades continue to inspire artists and audiences alike. It is AFI's honor to present him with its 38th Life Achievement Award."

TV Land will broadcast the 38th AFI Life Achievement Award tribute on TV Land PRIME.

About Mike Nichols

Born in Berlin in 1931, Mike Nichols fled Nazi Germany at age eight. He was certified a genius at 12, became half of the hit comedy act "Nichols and May" in his twenties, was an acclaimed director of stage and screen in his thirties, conquered television, and now, in his late seventies, remains a force equally at ease in all mediums. As such, he is one of the few artists to have received the Oscar, the Emmy, the Tony and the Grammy.

After spending his adolescence in New York, Nichols attended the University of Chicago, where he met Elaine May. The two writers developed the premier comedy act of the late '50s, performing in clubs, on TV and eventually on Broadway, where their show, *An Evening with Nichols and May* (1960) led to a Grammy-winning recording.

After they split, Nichols found a new collaborator in playwright Neil Simon, directing four hit Broadway shows—*Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Plaza Suite*, and *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*—all Tony Award winners.

Having honed his craft on stage, Nichols moved to the big screen in 1966, when Elizabeth Taylor handpicked him to direct *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?* Despite studio objections, Nichols shot the film in stark black and white, occasionally using handheld shots to intensify the dramatic tension. *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?* was a box-office and critical success, earning 13 Academy Award nominations, including one each for the four actors as well as for Best Director.

Nichols' second film, *THE GRADUATE* (1967), won him the Best Directing Oscar. He went on to direct an adaptation of Joseph Heller's *CATCH-22* (1970), *CARNAL KNOWLEDGE* (1971), *THE DAY OF THE DOLPHINS* (1973) and the period comedy *THE FORTUNE* (1975). He returned to Broadway in 1977 with two very different hits: producing the musical *Annie* and directing the drama *The Gin Game* with Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy.

In 1983, Nichols returned to features with the biopic *SILKWOOD*. Reuniting with both Streep and Nicholson in 1986, he helmed *HEARTBURN*, an adaptation of Nora Ephron's best-selling novel, followed by *WORKING GIRL* (1988), an adaptation of Carrie Fisher's semi-autobiographical *POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE* (1990), *THE BIRDCAGE* (1996) and *PRIMARY COLORS* (1998).

In 2001, Nichols returned to television by directing Emma Thompson in an adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *WIT* for HBO, earning Emmy Awards for directing and producing. He followed up in 2003, producing and directing the six-part miniseries adaptation of Tony Kushner's *ANGELS IN AMERICA* for HBO, which received 11 Emmy Awards. Then, in his triumphant return to Broadway in 2005, he won his sixth Tony as Best Director for the musical *Spamalot*, based on the movie *MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL* (1975). And in 2007, well into his seventies, Nichols returned to features to direct *CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR*.

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."

AFI Life Achievement Award Recipients

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

1973 John Ford
1974 James Cagney
1975 Orson Welles
1976 William Wyler
1977 Bette Davis
1978 Henry Fonda
1979 Alfred Hitchcock
1980 James Stewart
1981 Fred Astaire
1982 Frank Capra
1983 John Huston
1984 Lillian Gish
1985 Gene Kelly
1986 Billy Wilder
1987 Barbara Stanwyck
1988 Jack Lemmon
1989 Gregory Peck
1990 Sir David Lean
1991 Kirk Douglas
1992 Sidney Poitier
1993 Elizabeth Taylor
1994 Jack Nicholson
1995 Steven Spielberg
1996 Clint Eastwood

1997 Martin Scorsese
1998 Robert Wise
1999 Dustin Hoffman
2000 Harrison Ford
2001 Barbra Streisand
2002 Tom Hanks
2003 Robert De Niro

2004 Meryl Streep
2005 George Lucas
2006 Sean Connery
2007 Al Pacino
2008 Warren Beatty
2009 Michael Douglas

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 AFI Conservatory, preserves the legacy of America's film heritage through the AFI Catalog of Feature Films and AFI Archives, explores new digital technologies at the AFI Digital Content Lab and honors artists and their work through a variety of programs and special events.

For 37 years, the AFI Life Achievement Award has remained the highest honor for a career in film. AFI also honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year at AFI Awards, the institute's almanac for the 21st century, while AFI's 100 Years... series has introduced and reintroduced classic American movies to millions of film lovers. And as the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the United States, AFI's festivals include AFI FEST presented by Audi in Los Angeles and AFI-Discovery Channel SILVERDOCS documentary film festival in Silver Spring, Maryland. AFI exhibition also offers year-round programming at the ArcLight Cinemas and Skirball Cultural 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.

About TV Land PRIME and TV Land

TV Land PRIME is TV Land's prime time programming destination designed for people in their mid-forties and the exclusive home to the premieres of the network's original programming, contemporary television series acquisitions and movies. TV Land PRIME is part of TV Land, a network dedicated to presenting the best in entertainment on all platforms for consumers in their 40s and 50s. Consisting of original programming, acquired shows, hit movies and full-service Web site, TV Land is now seen in over 93 million U.S. homes.

About MTV Networks

MTV Networks, a division of Viacom (NYSE: VIA, VIA.B), is one of the world's leading creators of entertainment content, with brands that engage and connect diverse audiences across television, online, mobile, games, virtual worlds and consumer products. The company's portfolio spans more than 150 television channels and 400 digital media properties worldwide, and includes [MTV](http://www.mtv.com/) <<http://www.mtv.com/>> >, [VH1](http://www.vh1.com/) <<http://www.vh1.com/>> <<http://www.vh1.com/>> >, [CMT](http://www.cmt.com/) <<http://www.cmt.com/>> <<http://www.cmt.com/>> >, [Logo](http://www.logoonline.com/) <<http://www.logoonline.com/>> <<http://www.logoonline.com/>> >, [Harmonix](http://www.harmonixmusic.com/) <<http://www.harmonixmusic.com/>> <<http://www.harmonixmusic.com/>> > ,

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<<http://www.teennick.com/>> , [AddictingGames](http://www.addictinggames.com/index.html)
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