



NEWS RELEASE

AFI's 100 YEARS...100 SONGS BRINGS TOGETHER TWO ART FORMS IN SEVENTH ANNUAL AFI/CBS TELEVISION EVENT

***Somewhere Over the Rainbow, As Time Goes By,
Singin' in the Rain, Moon River and The Way We Were*
Vie for the Title of "Movie Song of The Century"**

LOS ANGELES, November 18, 2003—The American Film Institute (AFI) today announced **AFI's 100 Years...100 Songs** to be the annual theme for AFI's on-going celebration of 100 years of American movies.

AFI'S 100 YEARS...100 SONGS: AMERICA'S GREATEST MUSIC IN THE MOVIES will count down America's 100 greatest songs in the movies, as chosen by experts of the motion picture community, in a three-hour television event on the CBS Television Network in June 2004.

Each year, the AFI program has garnered considerable attention from movie lovers around the world. Previous programs within this series have included **AFI 100 Years...100 Movies** (1998); **AFI's 100 Years...100 Stars** (1999); **AFI's 100 Years...100 Laughs** (2000); **AFI's 100 Years...100 Thrills** (2001); **AFI's 100 Years...100 Passions** (2002) and **AFI's 100 Years...100 Heroes & Villains** (2003).

The **AFI 100 Years...** series is an event which sparks lively discussion each year as it reignites interest in classic American movies," stated AFI's Director and CEO Jean Picker Firstenberg. "This year, we turn our eye—and our ears—to the music and lyrics that have enriched our nation's moving image art form over the past century. Great songs are a personal and unforgettable part of the storytelling experience so combining music and film this year will undoubtedly provoke impassioned, heated debate and discord among even the closest friends."

For the seventh consecutive year, the primetime special will be executive produced and directed by Gary Smith; executive produced for AFI by former AFI Board chair Frederick S. Pierce; and produced by Dann Netter and Bob Gazzale. Past sponsors of the series have included General Motors, Pepsi, Johnson & Johnson, Best Buy, Capital One and Colgate-Palmolive.

Today, AFI distributed a ballot with 400 nominated songs to a jury of 1,500 leaders from the creative community, including film artists (directors, screenwriters, actors, editors, cinematographers) critics and historians. Additionally, the national membership of AFI will receive one collective vote.

This year, the jury will be asked to choose up to 100 songs from an extensive list, including *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *As Time Goes By*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Moon River*, *The Way We Were*, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, *That's Entertainment*, *It Had to be You*, *Say a Little Prayer*, *Take My Breath Away* and *Lose Yourself*. Due to the extensive number of songs in American film, jurors may also write in votes for up to five songs, which may not already appear on the ballot.

The jurors have been asked to consider the following criteria in their selections:

SONG

Music and lyrics* featured in an American film that set a tone or mood, define character, advance plot and/or express the film's themes in a manner that elevates the moving image art form. Songs may have been written and/or recorded specifically for the film or previously written and/or recorded and selected by the filmmaker to achieve the above goals.

CULTURAL IMPACT

Songs that have captured the nation's heart, echoed beyond the walls of a movie theater, and ultimately, stand in our collective memory for the film itself.

LEGACY

Songs that resonate across the century, enriching America's film heritage and captivating artists and audiences today.

AFI defines an American film as an English language film with significant creative and/or financial production elements from the United States. Additionally, only songs from feature-length American films released before January 1, 2003, will be considered. AFI defines a feature-length film as a motion picture of narrative format that is typically over 60 minutes in length.

*The lyrics must be a part of the film. *Laura*, *A Summer Place* and *[The Theme from] Picnic* are just three examples of songs not eligible because the lyrics do not appear in the film and were written for the song AFTER the film's release.

Interesting Facts about the Ballot

There are 400 songs on the ballot.

The ballot includes performances from Al Jolson (THE JAZZ SINGER, 1927) to Eminem (8 MILE, 2002).

Songs range alphabetically from *Aba Daba Honeymoon* (TWO WEEKS WITH LOVE, 1950) to *Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah* (SONG OF THE SOUTH, 1947).

Bing Crosby tops the list as the most represented performer with 12 nominated songs. Other male performers who are well represented include Fred Astaire (11), Gene Kelly (8) and Frank Sinatra (7).

Judy Garland is the most represented female performer with nine songs. Barbra Streisand has eight nominated songs, as does Marni Nixon, though she never appears on screen. Her voice is used in performances by Deborah Kerr, Natalie Wood and Audrey Hepburn.

The 1950s is the most represented decade with 67 nominees, followed closely by the 1980s with 62 nominees.

About AFI

AFI is the preeminent organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory, provides film preservation leadership and explores new digital technologies in moviemaking. AFI's New Media Ventures programs bring together the creative and digital communities, as the department seeks to develop a literacy program for the 21st century, helping young people learn to read and write screens of all sizes—cinema, television, computer and the Internet. With AFI ON SCREEN, the institute is the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, with programs at the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST); the AFI National Film Theater at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. A 49,000 square foot complex with three theatres—one historic, two new state-of-the-art stadium-style theatres—the AFI Silver exhibits film and video generally unavailable elsewhere in the region. AFI's annual almanac for the 21st century, **AFI AWARDS**, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year. **AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies, 100 Stars, 100 Laughs, 100 Thrills, 100 Passions** and **100 Heroes & Villains** have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. During the past 31 years, AFI's Life Achievement Award has become the highest honor for a career in film. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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