



NEWS RELEASE

**AFI ASSOCIATES PRESENT
CLASSIC AMERICAN FILM SERIES**

Sally Field, Julie Andrews, Blake Edwards and Robert Evans Discuss Their Work

Los Angeles, CA, March 14, 2003--- The AFI Associates announced today their annual Classic American Film Series, which honors three major motion pictures: CHINATOWN (1974), VICTOR/VICTORIA (1982) and NORMA RAE (1979) and features discussions with Sally Field, Julie Andrews, Blake Edwards, and Robert Evans among others.

Created by the AFI Associates, a dedicated group of women from the entertainment community, this film series presents screenings and filmmaker discussions in a uniquely personal environment. The films during the 3-month series will be presented in two small theaters in Beverly Hills, California. Immediately following each screening, discussions with the cast members/ filmmakers will be held following dinners hosted by Arnie Morton's Chicago Steakhouse—creating a unique opportunity for candid and lively interaction.

This series was created eight years ago by the AFI Associates as a fundraiser for the American Film Institute as another means to provide a forum for the preservation and appreciation of classic cinema. The AFI Associates was formed in 1984 to further AFI's work and to develop creative programs that enlist community support. The AFI Associates have raised well over \$3.5 million on behalf of the institute.

On **Wednesday, March 19, 2003**, CHINATOWN will be shown at the Charles Aidikoff Screening Room, 150 South Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills. The evening will conclude with a discussion with CHINATOWN'S producer, Robert Evans.

On **Wednesday, April 23, 2003**, VICTOR/VICTORIA will be shown at The Academy Little Theatre at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 8949 Wilshire Boulevard, 3rd Floor. Star Julie Andrews and director Blake Edwards will join in a dialogue with Charles Champlin about the musical.

On **Wednesday, May 21, 2003**, NORMA RAE will be shown at the Academy Little Theatre. Star Sally Field, will talk with biographer A. Scott Berg.

Each screening begins at 6:00 pm immediately followed by the dinner discussion at Arnie Morton's Steakhouse, located at 435 South La Cienega Boulevard. Complimentary parking will be available at all locations. Advance ticket sales only. Tickets are \$275 per person for the entire series or \$100 per person for each individual night. Call 323-856-7633 for tickets.

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, coordinates nationwide film preservation efforts and explores new technologies in moviemaking. AFI also presents the best of film through 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; the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland (opening April 11, 2003); and the AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. AFI's annual almanac for the 21st century, **AFI AWARDS**, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year. In addition, **AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies, 100 Stars, 100 Laughs, 100 Thrills, 100 Passions** and **100 Heroes & Villains** (airing June 2003) have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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