



**MERYL STREEP RECEIVES AFI's 32<sup>nd</sup> LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**USA NETWORK TO AIR TRIBUTE ON JUNE 21, 2004**

**AWARD DINNER TRIBUTE FILLED WITH STREEP FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

***MONSTER Screenwriter/Director Patty Jenkins Also Recognized with  
Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal***

---

LOS ANGELES, CA, June 10, 2004 – Thousands of guests filled the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, California, on June 10, for the 32<sup>nd</sup> American Film Institute (AFI) Life Achievement Award Tribute to Meryl Streep. The two-hour special event, executive produced and written by Bob Gazzale and directed and co-produced by Louis J. Horvitz, was taped for telecast on USA Network on Monday, June 21, 2004, at 9:00 p.m. (ET/PT). Widely regarded as the highest honor for a career in film, the black-tie tribute celebrated Streep's extraordinary career with many of her colleagues, friends and family present. Mike Nichols, with whom Streep has worked on a number of projects including *ANGELS IN AMERICA*, *POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE*, *SILKWOOD* and *HEARTBURN*, presented Streep with the honor at evening's end.

Among guests participating in the tribute were two previous AFI Life Achievement Award recipients—Robert De Niro and Clint Eastwood—joined by Jim Carrey, Claire Danes, Nora Ephron, Carrie Fisher, Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, Kevin Kline, Shirley MacLaine, Jack Nicholson, Kurt Russell, Tracy Ullman, and James Woods.

Also in attendance were Shohreh Aghdashloo, Jessica Alba, Kate Beckinsdale, Adrian Brody, Julie Chen, Roger Ebert, Melanie Griffith, Anthony Michael Hall, George Hamilton, Cloris Leachman, Catherine O'Hara, Mimi Rogers, Ann Roth, Leelee Sobieski, Charlize Theron and Marissa Janet Wynokur.

Streep joins a distinguished list of recipients of AFI's Life Achievement Award including Tom Hanks, Barbra Streisand, Harrison Ford, Dustin Hoffman, Steven Spielberg, Jack Nicholson, Elizabeth Taylor, Sidney Poitier, Gregory Peck, Barbara Stanwyck, Billy Wilder, Fred Astaire, James Stewart, Alfred Hitchcock, Bette Davis, Orson Welles, James Cagney and John Ford.

The tribute, both elegant and playful, focused on the two-time Academy Award® winner's astonishing array of roles as an actress and, surprisingly, as a singer as several key film clips featured her own vocal performances. In addition to the tributes given by guests including Eastwood and Keaton, the evening featured a moving montage of heartfelt messages by women in the arts, including Nicole Kidman, Halle Berry, Julianne Moore, Cher and Mary-Louise Parker.

(more)

The evening began with remarks from AFI Board of Trustees Chair Sir Howard Stringer, who asked for a moment of silence for the passing of former President Ronald Reagan and acknowledged the one-year passing of Gregory Peck, AFI's first chair and a previous AFI Life Achievement Award recipient.

AFI Director and CEO Jean Picker Firstenberg paid tribute to the AFI Conservatory's filmmaking alumni and introduced a presentation of the 2004 Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal, recognizing the extraordinary creative talents of an AFI alumnus, to MONSTER screenwriter/director Patty Jenkins. Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron presented Jenkins with the honor. The Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal recognizes an AFI alumnus who symbolizes the legacy of Franklin Schaffner. Jenkins, who graduated from the AFI Conservatory in 2000, is the 14<sup>th</sup> alumnus to receive the Alumni Medal. The very first honor was given to a graduate of the AFI Conservatory's Directing Workshop for Women.

### **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 they also seek 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, 100 Heroes & Villains have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. AFI's 100 Years...100 Songs will air June 22, 2004. During the past 32 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](http://www.AFI.com).

AFI thanks Microsoft for its support of this year's Life Achievement Award. American Airlines is the official airline of the American Film Institute. AFI offers additional thanks to the Frank Family Vineyards.

(more)

### **About USA Network**

USA Network is cable television's leading provider of original series and feature movies, sports events, off-net television shows, and blockbuster theatrical films. USA Network is available in 82% of all U.S. homes and is seen in over 88 million U.S. homes. The USA Network Web site is located at [www.usanetwork.com](http://www.usanetwork.com).

32<sup>nd</sup> AFI Life Achievement Award  
A Tribute To Meryl Streep  
June 10, 2004

Page 3 of 3

USA Network is a program service of NBC Universal Cable a division of NBC Universal, one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies in the development, production, and marketing of entertainment, news, and information to a global audience.

# # #

**\*\*\*PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST\*\*\***

CONTACTS:

Lauren Clark  
AFI  
323.856.7603  
[lclark@AFI.com](mailto:lclark@AFI.com)

Andrea Tiano-Epstein  
USA Network  
818-777-6679  
[andrea.tianoepstein@unistudios.com](mailto:andrea.tianoepstein@unistudios.com)