



NEWS RELEASE

GEORGE LUCAS TO RECEIVE
33rd AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

AFI and USA Network Join Again
to Present AFI Life Achievement Award Program

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 15, 2004—George Lucas has been selected by the American Film Institute's (AFI) Board of Trustees to receive the 33rd 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 Lucas at a gala tribute in Los Angeles in June 2005.

"I've been very fortunate to have had a long career doing what I love to do, and being recognized by AFI for it is really an honor," Lucas said. "I'm proud to be counted among such an extraordinary group of people whose lives are dedicated to the art of making movies."

"George Lucas is a master storyteller, but he is first and foremost a moving image pioneer," said Stringer. "He has advanced the art of the moving image like few others, and in the process has inspired a new generation of filmmakers around the world. AFI is proud to present him with its Life Achievement Award."

USA Network will broadcast the 33rd AFI Life Achievement Award tribute in June 2005. Bob Gazzale, who served as executive producer and writer of AFI's Tributes to Meryl Streep and Robert De Niro, will continue in these roles.

About George Lucas

Born and reared in Modesto, California, George Lucas first attracted attention for his filmmaking abilities as a student at the University of Southern California, when his short film, ELECTRONIC LABYRINTH THX 1138 4EB, won the top award at the National Student Film Festival.

In 1971, using San Francisco production studio American Zoetrope and long-time friend Francis Ford Coppola as executive producer, Lucas transformed the short film into his first feature, the stunningly prescient THX 1138.

His follow-up, the low-budget AMERICAN GRAFFITI (1973), became the most successful film of its time. But it was STAR WARS (1977), Lucas' third film, that changed everything. A deceptively simple morality tale of good versus evil told across a fantastic landscape of exotic planets and bizarre creatures, STAR WARS became an international phenomenon. Refusing to accept the limitations of filmmaking at the time, Lucas created his own visual effects company, Industrial Light & Magic, to make his vision a reality.

Lucas has been storywriter and executive producer of a series of box-office hits beginning in the 1980s, starting with the continuation of the STAR WARS saga, THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK in 1980 and RETURN OF THE JEDI in 1983. In 1981, he created the classic adventurer INDIANA JONES, star of three classic box-office hits as well as a television series, THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES, which won 12 Emmy Awards.

Throughout the 1980s, Lucas helped bring to the screen an array of films as diverse as WILLOW; TUCKER: THE MAN AND HIS DREAM; and MISHIMA, and helped create unforgettable Disney theme park attractions. As chairman of Lucasfilm Ltd., Lucas oversaw its growth into all facets of filmmaking and entertainment. ILM has delivered revolutionary visual effects for scores of films and blazed new trails into the world of digital imagery. The computer graphic research division of Lucasfilm was spun-off in 1986 and became Pixar Animation Studios.

Skywalker Sound has applied its own perfection and devotion to the crafting of a film's soundtrack and post-production editing. Lucasfilm has been a post-production innovator, with such pioneering achievements as non-linear video editing systems that became the basis of the standard editing platforms used in film and television today.

Lucasfilm also includes LucasArts, a leading developer of home computer and console-based entertainment, and Lucas Licensing, which have expanded the STAR WARS and INDIANA JONES brands into best-selling novels, toys and merchandise.

Lucas returned to directing in 1999 with STAR WARS: EPISODE I THE PHANTOM MENACE. Three years later, EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES, was the first major live-action movie to be shot entirely digitally. Lucas is currently in post-production on the third and final STAR WARS film, EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH, scheduled to be released May 19, 2005.

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."

In 1993, the trustees extended the criteria to encompass "individuals with active careers and work of significance yet to be accomplished."

AFI Life Achievement Award Recipients

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

1973	John Ford	1989	Gregory Peck
1974	James Cagney	1990	Sir David Lean
1975	Orson Welles	1991	Kirk Douglas
1976	William Wyler	1992	Sidney Poitier
1977	Bette Davis	1993	Elizabeth Taylor
1978	Henry Fonda	1994	Jack Nicholson
1979	Alfred Hitchcock	1995	Steven Spielberg
1980	James Stewart	1996	Clint Eastwood
1981	Fred Astaire	1997	Martin Scorsese
1982	Frank Capra	1998	Robert Wise
1983	John Huston	1999	Dustin Hoffman
1984	Lillian Gish	2000	Harrison Ford
1985	Gene Kelly	2001	Barbra Streisand
1986	Billy Wilder	2002	Tom Hanks
1987	Barbara Stanwyck	2003	Robert De Niro
1988	Jack Lemmon	2004	Meryl Streep

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 Conservatory, maintains America's film heritage through the *AFI Catalog of Feature Films* and explores new digital technologies in moviemaking through AFI's New Media Ventures. As the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, AFI ON SCREEN offers year-round programming at the ArcLight Hollywood and the annual AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival; at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland—including the annual SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival—and at the AFI National Film Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The annual almanac for the 21st century, AFI AWARDS honors the most

outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year, while **AFI's 100 Years . . .** series has ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. And, during the past 32 years, AFI's Life Achievement Award has become the highest honor for a career in film. Additional information about AFI is available at AFI.com.

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