



NEWS RELEASE

**PENN FAMILY RECEIVES 5th AFI ASSOCIATES' PRESTIGIOUS
PLATINUM CIRCLE AWARD**

**Benicio Del Toro, Clint Eastwood, Jack Nicholson, Among Others,
Celebrate Family's Legacy**

**NOTE TO EDITORS: PHOTOS OF THE PLATINUM CIRCLE AWARD WILL
BE AVAILABLE ONLINE BY 6:00 P.M. (PST), FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2004, AT
<http://www.AFI.com/Penn>**

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 1, 2004—The AFI Associates of the American Film Institute presented its Platinum Circle Award to the multi-talented Penn family on October 1st at a lively and emotional luncheon at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Accepting the award were family mother and actress, Eileen Ryan Penn; singer and composer Michael Penn, his wife, Academy Award®-nominated singer and composer Aimee Mann; Academy Award®-winning actor Sean Penn and his wife, actress and producer Robin Wright Penn; and actor Chris Penn. The program also included a moving tribute by Martin Sheen to the Penn family patriarch, producer, writer, director and actor Leo Penn.

In addition to Sheen, the award presentation ceremony included tributes from Stockard Channing, Peter Falk, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, Matt Palmieri, Suzanne Pleshette, and Brett Ratner.

The Platinum Circle Honorary Committee was chaired by Robert De Niro, Clint and Dina Eastwood, Jack Nicholson, and Martin and Janet Sheen.

Among the 600 attendees of the luncheon were Patricia Barry, Jim Caviezel, Benicio Del Toro, Laura Dern, Stephen Dorff, Clint Eastwood, Martin Landau, Mike Medavoy, Jack Nicholson, Daniel Petrie Jr., Mark Rydell, Dick Van Dyke and Steven Zaillian.

In celebration of the Associates' 20 year anniversary, Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn was also on hand to proclaim October 1st, 2004 "AFI Associates Day" in the City of Los Angeles.

ABOUT THE PLATINUM CIRCLE AWARD:

The prestigious Platinum Circle Award is given to a family whose creative contributions significantly enhance the entertainment community. Previous recipients include the families of Daniel and Dorothea Petrie, Henry Fonda, Debbie Reynolds and Walter Matthau. Proceeds benefit the programs of the American Film Institute.

ABOUT THE AFI ASSOCIATES:

The AFI Associates, formed in 1984, is celebrating its 20th anniversary year. Led by President Lois Saffian, The Associates assist in furthering the work of AFI by providing financial support and have created several programs that enrich the Institute.

ABOUT AFI:

AFI advances film, television and other forms of the moving image through innovation in education and the recognition of excellence. 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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