



NEWS RELEASE

MERYL STREEP TO RECEIVE 32nd AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

AFI and USA Network Continue Relationship To Present AFI Life Achievement Award Program

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 17, 2003—Meryl Streep has been selected by the American Film Institute's (AFI) Board of Trustees to receive the 32nd 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 Streep at a gala tribute on June 10, 2004, which will be held in the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland.

Meryl Streep commented, "I am honored to be selected by the AFI for the work I love doing – The event is in June and that might give me enough time to compose a list of all the people I'm beholden to in my life and to whom I owe everything."

Mr. Stringer commented, "Meryl Streep is one of the great artists in the history of American film. Her talent, range and determination to master her craft bring out performances that sometimes border on the ethereal. In that sense, she is truly peerless. It is AFI's great honor to present its Life Achievement Award to this truly gifted actor."

"Meryl Streep is the ultimate film artist—for her generation and for all generations," said Jon Avnet, Chair, AFI Board of Directors and Co-Chair, AFI Life Achievement Nominating Committee [with Bob Daly].

USA Network will broadcast the 32nd AFI Life Achievement Award tribute in June 2004. Bob Gazzale, who served as Executive Producer of last year's AFI Tribute to Robert De Niro, will continue these duties again this year.

About Meryl Streep

Mary Louise Streep was born in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. After starring in numerous high school theatrical productions, Streep majored in drama at Vassar, followed by graduate work at the Yale School of Drama.

Streep went on to appear in a number of successful Broadway plays, garnering a Tony nomination for her performance in Tennessee Williams' *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*.

Her screen debut came in 1977's *JULIA*, followed a year later by her first Academy Award nomination, for her portrayal of Linda in *THE DEER HUNTER*. Just one year later, Streep won her first Oscar, for Best Supporting Actress, as Dustin Hoffman's estranged wife in the 1979's *KRAMER VS. KRAMER*.

During subsequent leading roles, Streep quickly gained a reputation as a master at refining accents. But, more significantly, she excelled at portraying the people behind the voices. In *SOPHIE'S CHOICE* (1982), Streep brought to life a Polish Holocaust survivor with horrific memories. Her performance garnered a second Academy Award, this time for Best Actress. Four years previously, she had won an Emmy Award for her performance in television's landmark mini-series *HOLOCAUST* (1978).

Streep continued to accept challenging, disparate roles throughout the 1980s. Her compassionate portrayals of real-life women included Karen Silkwood, the nuclear plant worker who uncovered nefarious activity at her workplace in *SILKWOOD* (1983); Karen Blixen (aka author Isak Denisen), who found herself torn between two men and two countries in *OUT OF AFRICA* (1985); and Lindy Chamberlin, the Australian mother accused of murdering her own child in *A CRY IN THE DARK* (1988). Each of these performances, along with *THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN* and *IRONWEED*, were rewarded with Academy Award nominations.

In the 1990s, Streep turned to screen comedy with *POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE* (1990), *DEFENDING YOUR LIFE* (1991) and *DEATH BECOMES HER* (1992). Then she took on the action-adventure genre with *THE RIVER WILD* (1995). Also in 1995, Streep co-starred with Clint Eastwood in an adaptation of the best seller *THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY*. In 1996, she starred in Barbet Schroeder's thriller *BEFORE AND AFTER* and in Jerry Zaks' *MARVIN'S ROOM*. Two more

Academy Award nominations followed, for her performances as a dying mother in ONE TRUE THING (1998), and as a passionate music teacher in MUSIC OF THE HEART (1999).

In 2001, Streep lent her voice to Steven Spielberg's A.I. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, a story of a highly advanced robotic boy who longs to become "real;" and next as the narrator for Sheila Curran Bernard's documentary miniseries SCHOOL, a history of the American public education system.

In 2002, Streep starred with Nicolas Cage in ADAPTATION, an account of screenwriter Charlie Kaufman's attempt to adapt Susan Orlean's non-fiction book *The Orchid Thief*. She also co-starred with Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Toni Collette and Claire Danes in THE HOURS, a story of three women in different eras who are all profoundly affected by the works of Virginia Woolf.

This year Streep co-starred with Al Pacino, Emma Thompson and Mary-Louise Parker in HBO's adaptation of Tony Kushner's widely acclaimed stage play ANGELS IN AMERICA, directed by Mike Nichols.

Currently Streep is in production on Jonathan Demme's remake of THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE with co-stars Denzel Washington, Julianne Moore and Liev Schreiber.

Streep continues to be an outspoken advocate for better roles and better pay for women in the film profession.

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 Recipients

Meryl Streep 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		

About the American Film Institute

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 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.

Press Contacts:

Liza deVilla
American Film Institute
323-856-7896
ldevilla@afi.com

Linda Dozoretz
Linda Dozoretz Communications
323-656-4499
linda@ldcomm.com