

**USA NETWORK TO AIR THE 31ST AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
TRIBUTE HONORING ROBERT DE NIRO ON JUNE 23, 2003**

Award Dinner to Be Held in the Kodak Theatre

Los Angeles, CA – May 28, 2003 – Robert De Niro will receive the American Film Institute's (AFI) 31st Life Achievement Award on June 12, 2003. Martin Scorsese will present him with the award at the tribute, which will be held in the Kodak Theatre - refashioned as a ballroom for the evening - at Hollywood & Highland. The program will air on USA Network on June 23, 2003 at 9:00 p.m. (ET/PT).

The tribute dinner event which is sponsored by SBC Communications, Inc., will feature a number of De Niro's friends and colleagues — including Billy Crystal, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jodie Foster, Harvey Keitel, Juliette Lewis, Edward Norton, Chazz Palminteri, Joe Pesci, Don Rickles, Ben Stiller, Meryl Streep, James Woods, and many more.

Widely regarded as one the most respected actors of the past three decades, Robert De Niro made his reputation portraying powerful, memorable men, with characterizations fueled by an almost superhuman gusto. As a two-time Academy Award® winner, he has worked with some of the greatest directors of our time, bringing to life stories and characters that have become a permanent part of our cultural history.

De Niro launched his prolific motion picture career in Brian De Palma's *The Wedding Party* in 1969. By 1973, De Niro twice won the New York Film Critics' Award for Best Supporting Actor in recognition of his critically acclaimed performances in *Bang the Drum Slowly* and Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets*.

In 1974, De Niro received the Academy Award® for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the young Vito Corleone in *The Godfather: Part II*. In 1980, he won his second Oscar®, as Best Actor, for his extraordinary portrayal of Jake La Motta in Scorsese's *Raging Bull*. De Niro has earned Academy Award® nominations for his work in four additional films: for his role as Travis Bickle in Scorsese's acclaimed *Taxi Driver*, as a Vietnam vet in Michael Cimino's *The Deer Hunter*, as a catatonic patient brought to life in Penny Marshall's *Awakenings*, and in 1992, for his role as Max Cady, an ex-con looking for revenge, in Scorsese's remake of the 1962 classic *Cape Fear*.

De Niro's distinguished body of work also includes performances in Elia Kazan's *The Last Tycoon*, Bernardo Bertolucci's *1900*, Ulu Grosbard's *True Confessions* and *Falling in Love*, Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in America*, Scorsese's *King of Comedy*, *New York, New York*, *Goodfellas*, and *Casino*, Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*, Roland Joffé's *The Mission*, Brian De Palma's *The*

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Untouchables, Alan Parker's *Angel Heart*, Martin Brest's *Midnight Run*, David Jones' *Jackknife*,

Martin Ritt's *Stanley and Iris*, Neil Jordan's *We're No Angels*, Ron Howard's *Backdraft*, Michael Caton-Jones' *This Boy's Life*, John McNaughton's *Mad Dog and Glory*, *A Bronx Tale*, Kenneth Branagh's *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, Michael Mann's *Heat*; Barry Levinson's *Sleepers* and *Wag the Dog*; Jerry Zaks' *Marvin's Room*; Tony Scott's *The Fan*; James Mangold's *Copland*; Alfonso Cuarón's *Great Expectations* and Quentin Tarantino's *Jackie Brown*; John Frankenheimer's *Ronin*; Harold Ramis' *Analyze This*; Joel Schumacher's *Flawless*; Des McNuff's *Rocky and Bullwinkle*; Jay Roach's *Meet the Parents*; George Tillman's *Men of Honor* and John Herzfeld's *Fifteen Minutes*; Frank Oz's *The Score*; Tom Dey's *Showtime* and Michael Caton-Jones' *City by the Sea*. He was recently seen in Harold Ramis' *Analyze That*, a sequel to *Analyze This*. He will be seen next in Nick Hamm's *Godsend*.

De Niro takes pride in the development of his production company, Tribeca Productions, and the Tribeca Film Center, which he founded with Jane Rosenthal in 1988. Through Tribeca, he develops projects on which he serves in a combination of capacities, including producer, director and actor.

Tribeca's *A Bronx Tale* marked De Niro's directorial debut. Other Tribeca features include *Thunderheart*, *Cape Fear*, *Mistress*, *Night and the City*, *The Night We Never Met*, *Faithful*, *Panther*, *Marvin's Room*, *Wag the Dog*, *Analyze This*, *Flawless*, *Rocky and Bullwinkle* and *Meet the Parents*.

In 1992, Tribeca TV was launched with the critically acclaimed series *Tribeca*. De Niro served as one of the series executive producers. In 1998, Tribeca produced a miniseries for NBC, based on the life of Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano. Tribeca Productions is headquartered at De Niro's Tribeca Film Center, in the TriBeCa district of New York.

AFI's 31st LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT DE NIRO is executive produced and written by Bob Gazzale and directed by Louis J. Horvitz.

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 it also 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.

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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. During the past 31 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.

For photos of *AFI* please log on to Universal TV's digital pressroom at www.universaltvpressroom.com. If you have not already registered, please click on "New User Registration," to complete the registration form for approval to access the entire library of photos for all USA Network projects.

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 81% of all U.S. homes and is seen in nearly 87 million U.S. homes. The USA Network Web site is located at www.usanetwork.com.

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