



## GARY OLDMAN TO RECEIVE DESERT PALM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT PALM SPRINGS FILM AWARDS GALA

### Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual **Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF)** will present **Gary Oldman** with the **Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor** at its annual Film Awards Gala for his performance in *Darkest Hour*. The Film Awards Gala, hosted by Mary Hart, will be held Tuesday, January 2 at the Palm Springs Convention Center. The Festival runs January 4-15, 2018.

“Gary Oldman brings to screen one of the most powerful performances of this year as Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour*. Portraying Britain’s steadfast leader during the tumultuous era of World War II, he has already earned rave reviews from critics and is sure to garner awards attention this season,” said Festival Chairman Harold Matzner. “The Palm Springs International Film Festival is honored to present Gary Oldman with this year’s Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor.”

Oldman received the International Star Award at the 2012 Palm Springs International Film festival. Past actor recipients of the Desert Palm Achievement Award include Casey Affleck, Jeff Bridges, Bradley Cooper, Daniel Day-Lewis, Colin Firth, Matthew McConaughey, Sean Penn, Brad Pitt and Eddie Redmayne. In the years they were honored, Affleck, Bridges, Day-Lewis, McConaughey, Penn and Redmayne went on to win the Academy Award<sup>®</sup> for Best Actor, while Cooper, Firth and Pitt received Oscar<sup>®</sup> nominations.

From Focus Features, *Darkest Hour* is a thrilling account inspired by the true story of Winston Churchill's first weeks in office during the early days of the Second World War. Anthony McCarten's original screenplay takes a revelatory look at the man behind the icon. The film is directed by Joe Wright and stars Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Lily James, Stephen Dillane, Ronald Pickup, and Ben Mendelsohn.

Gary Oldman is known for his iconic characterizations of Sirius Black (Harry Potter's godfather), Commissioner Jim Gordon (Batman/Bruce Wayne's crime-fighting partner), Dracula, Beethoven, Pontius Pilate, Lee Harvey Oswald, Joe Orton, Sid Vicious, and George Smiley. The latter portrayal, in Tomas Alfredson's *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, brought him accolades worldwide including BAFTA Award, British Independent Film Award, European Film Award and Academy Award nominations for Best Actor. In addition to his work in the *Harry Potter* franchise and Christopher Nolan's *Batman* films, his other credits include *Sid and Nancy*, *Prick Up Your Ears*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *State of Grace*, *JFK*, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *True Romance*, *Immortal Beloved*, *The Professional*, *The Fifth Element*, *Air Force One*, *Hannibal*, *The Book of Eli*, *Child 44*, *The Contender* and *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*.

### **About The Palm Springs International Film Festival**

The Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF) is one of the largest film festivals in North America, welcoming 135,000 attendees last year for its lineup of new and celebrated international features and documentaries. The Festival is also known for its annual Film Awards Gala, a glamorous, black-tie event attended by 2,500. The Film Awards Gala honors the year's best achievements in cinema in front of and behind the camera. The celebrated list of talents who have been honored in recent years includes Ben Affleck, Javier Bardem, Cate Blanchett, Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper, George Clooney, Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Clint Eastwood, Tom Hanks, Nicole Kidman, Matthew McConaughey, Julianne Moore, Brad Pitt, Eddie Redmayne, Julia Roberts, Meryl Streep and Reese Witherspoon. For more information, call 760-778-8979 or 800-898-7256 or visit [www.psfilmfest.org](http://www.psfilmfest.org).



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hollywoodglee