

ADAM DRIVER ACCEPTS OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS OF THE YEAR AWARD AT THE 35TH ANNUAL SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (January 18, 2020) â?? Day 3 of the 35th Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival presented by UGG featured a heartening tribute to 2020 Oscar nominated actor **Adam Driver,** who received the Outstanding Performers of the Year Award presented by Belvedere Vodka. Driver was recognized for his critically acclaimed work in Noah Baumbachâ??s *Marriage Story*.

As he arrived to the tribute, the actor was greeted by SBIFF Executive Director **Roger Durling**, who later presented him with the award. After taking a few questions from young aspiring student journalists on the red carpet, Driver sat down with *IndieWire*â??s Anne Thompson for an insightful conversation and look back at his varied career and beginnings as a U.S. Marine.

Some of the highlights from the conversation included:

- **On shooting the dramatic â??fight sceneâ?• in *Marriage Story* with Scarlett Johansson**: â?•We were supported by a very clear backbone of what we were doing. It was very carefully choreographed. We worked on it very similar to a playâ?¦because it was so well-written, blocking came really fastâ?¦When we were shooting it, it didnâ??t feel very dissimilar to what itâ??s like when you shoot a love scene with everyone naked. Our boom operator is holding the mic, but heâ??s kind of looking away. Thereâ??s such focus given to what weâ??re doing, and thereâ??s not a lot of conversation in betweenâ?¦thereâ??s two people trying to be as naked as possible.â?•
- **On working with Noah Baumbach:** â??It was on our first day of working together we clicked right awayâ?¦His scripts are very to the letter and feel very much like theatre to me, which I found immediately comforting. I like that he just sets different boundaries than other directors. The lines are the lines. Donâ??t change them. And how you interpret them is up for grabs.â?•
- **On his character Charlieâ??s connection to his ballad of â??Being Aliveâ?•**: â??Itâ??s a song that he knows very well. By heartâ?¦heâ??s seen the YouTube clips and probably has the

soundtrack. Maybe he even directed a production of it in high school. He knows it implicitlyâ?¦for the first time he starts to process not the loss of love but love transitioning into something else.â?•

- **On how being in the military prepared him for acting:** â??Itâ??s the best acting trainingâ?¦the structure is exactly the same. I mean, the end result is much different, and in one youâ??re pretending the stakes are life and death, in the other they actually are.â?•

Just before Driverâ??s conversation with Thompson, the audience was treated to a montage of Driverâ??s varied career, including clips from films like *Inside Llewyn Davis, Francis Ha, BlacKkKlansman* and *Star Wars.*

Following Driverâ??s conversation with Thompson, Durling took the stage to present him with the Outstanding Performers of the Year Award, saying: **â??**Adam Driver, in my humble opinion, your acting as Charlie is the best performance by a male in 2019 by far. You bare your soul in this film. You do not rely on makeup. You donâ??t rely on wardrobe, nor dramatic weight changes. Instead, you wear your emotions on your skin and dig deep.â?•

Upon accepting his award with a standing ovation from the audience, Driver said: â??Acting to me is many things. You know, itâ??s a craft. Itâ??s a political act. Unfortunately, itâ??s a business, and itâ??s a service. I think that acting is a service industry. Iâ??m there in service of the director, the actors and the crew, and the story overall, which is more important. I very much believe in that. I believe in the potential effect of great collaboration. I think movies and films and art can lead people out of the dark.â?•

Following the tribute, Driver and Thompson headed just outside the theatre for a VIP after party presented by Belvedere, where guests mingled over specialty cocktails, struck a pose in a gif-able photo booth and gathered around warm cozy lounge areas amid the chilly Santa Barbara weather.

The Outstanding Performers of the Year Award recognizes select individuals who have distinguished themselves with exceptional performances in film this past year. Past recipients of the award include Rami Malek, Margot Robbie and Allison Janney, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, Brie Larson and Saoirse Ronan, Steve Carell, Cate Blanchett, Jennifer Lawrence, Viola Davis, James Franco, Colin Firth, Penelope Cruz, Angelina Jolie, Helen Mirren, Heath Ledger, Kate Winslet and Charlize Theron.

The 35th Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival runs from January 15-25, 2020. For more information, and to purchase tickets, festival passes and packages, please visit www.sbiff.org.

About the Santa Barbara International Film Festival

The Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts and educational organization. Over the past 34 years, SBIFF has become one of the leading film festivals in the United States â?? attracting 95,000 attendees and offering 11 days of 200+ films, tributes and panels, fulfilling their mission to engage, enrich, and inspire people through the power of film. We celebrate the art of cinema and provide impactful educational experiences for our local, national and global communities.

SBIFF continues its commitment to education and the community throughout many free educational programs and events. In June 2016, SBIFF entered a new era with the acquisition of the historic and

beloved Riviera Theatre. After a capital campaign and renovation, the theatre is now SBIFFâ??s new state-of-the-art, year-round home, showing new international and independent films every day. In May 2019, SBIFF opened its own Education Center in downtown Santa Barbara on State Street to serve as a home for its many educational programs and a place for creativity and learning.



(Source: Press release courtesy of sbiff)

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