WILL SMITH AND AUNJANUE ELLIS TO BE HONORED WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS OF THE YEAR AWARD AT 2022 SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

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SANTA BARBARA, CA (November 11, 2021) â?? Will Smith and Aunjanue Ellis will receive the Outstanding Performers of the Year Award at the 37th annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival. Smith and Ellis will be honored at an in-person conversation about their cinematic careers leading up to their outstanding performances in this yearâ??s â??King Richardâ?• from Warner Bros Pictures. The date will be determined soon.



â??Weâ??re so excited to be able to salute the incomparable Will Smith and the revelatory Aunjanue Ellis with this award. The â??doubles matchâ?? of their intricate relationship onscreen as Richard and Oracene in â??King Richardâ?• is electrifying and a joy to behold,â?• remarked SBIFFâ??s Executive Director Roger Durling.

Based on the true story that will inspire the world, Warner Bros. Picturesâ?? â??King Richardâ?• follows the journey of Richard Williams, an undeterred father instrumental in raising two of the most extraordinarily gifted athletes of all time, who will end up changing the sport of tennis forever. Two-time Oscar nominee Will Smith (â??Ali,â?• â??The Pursuit of Happiness,â?• â??Bad Boys for Lifeâ?•) stars as Richard. Aunjanue Ellis (â??If Beale Street Could Talk,â?• HBOâ??s â??Lovecraft Countryâ?•) plays Oracene, the girlsâ?? mother. Driven by a clear vision of their future and using unconventional methods, Richard has a plan that will take Venus (played by Saniyya Sidney) and Serena Williams (played by Demi Singleton) from the streets of Compton, California to the global stage as legendary icons. The profoundly moving film shows the power of family, perseverance, and unwavering belief as a means to achieve the impossible and impact the world.

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 Sacha Baron Cohen, Adam Driver, 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 37th Santa Barbara International Film Festival, presented by UGGÂ®, will take place LIVE on March 2 through March 12, 2022. Official events including screenings, filmmaker Q&As, industry panels, and celebrity tributes, will be held throughout the city, including at the historic Arlington Theatre. This yearâ??s lineup will be announced February 2022. For additional information or to buy passes,

visit 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 dedicated to discovering and showcasing the best in independent and international cinema. Over the past 35 years, SBIFF has become one of the leading film festivals in the United States â?? attracting 100,000+ attendees and offering 11 days of 200+ films, tributes and symposiums, fulfilling their mission to engage, enrich, and inspire the Santa Barbara community through the power of film.

In 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 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: News release Michelle Tarangelo, Sunshine Sachs)

Category

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