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# Virtuosos Award and more in Santa Barbara #SBIFF

## Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

**Virtuosos Award presented to Sam Elliott, Claire Foy, John David Washington, and more**

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (February 6, 2019)** â?? The 34th Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) continued its tribute series with the presentation of the Virtuosos Award presented by Ugg, which recognizes a select group of talent whose noteworthy performances in film have elevated them into the national cinematic dialogue.

This yearâ??s honorees included: **Yalitza Aparicio** (*Roma*) **Sam Elliott** (*A Star is Born*), **Elsie Fisher** ( *Eighth Grade*) **Claire Foy** (*First Man*), **Richard E. Grant** (*Can You Ever Forgive Me?*), **Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie** (*Leave No Trace*), **John David Washington** (*BlacKkKlansman*) and **Steven Yeun** (*Burning*).

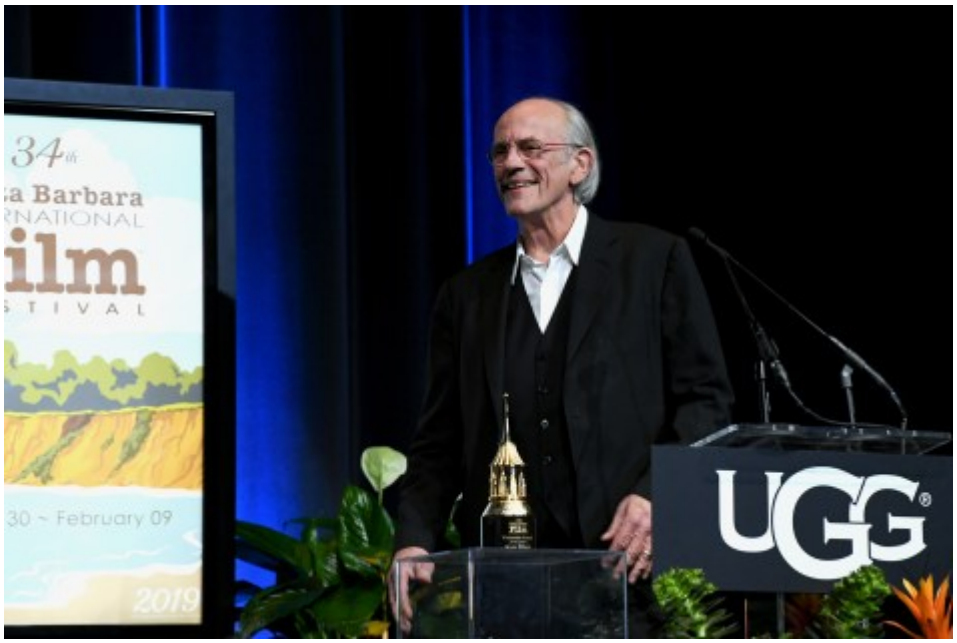
Prior to being presented with their awards, each honoree engaged in a one-on-one discussion with Turner Classic Movies host **Dave Karger**. The one-on-one discussions were followed by a panel discussion, also moderated by Karger.

The evening was full of warmth and laughter and the the utmost appreciation for legend Elliott, who received a standing ovation upon taking the stage.




Sam Elliot walks across stage to a standing ovation for the Virtuosos Award Presented By UGG duri

The most memorable moment of the evening took place during the full panel when Karger asked each honoree to name an actor with whom they feel they would have an amazing rapport. Washington immediately responded with â??BeyoncÃ©,â?• put down the microphone, and pretended to walk away. The entire panel and audience broke out into laughter. After a few moments of contemplation, Yeun, Grant, Foy, Fisher, and McKenzie decided to give the same answer as Washington. Elliott, however, continued to hold out and when he gave his answer it caught everyone by surprise. â??Iâ??d like to work with Claire Foy,â?• he finally said. The audience cheered and applauded and Foy exclaimed with a smile, â??Good god. Oh my god. I actually think Iâ??m blushing.




Christopher Lloyd onstage for the Virtuosos Award Presented By UGG during the 34th Santa Barbar

Actor **Christopher Lloyd** presented each honoree with their award.

Additional highlights from the evening include:

**Steven Yeun on the ambiguity of *Burning*:**

When asked about peopleâ??s reactions to the film â?? particularly the ending, which is very ambiguous â?? Yeun told Karger: â??To me Director Leeâ??s films have always been a way of reflecting the world back at the viewer. I think what we were all trying to go for was an opennessâ?¦to tell you a story that you kind of direct, that you impose what these people are and what they did.â?•



Steven Yeun speaks onstage for the Virtuosos Award Presented By UGG during the 34th Santa Bar

**John David Washington on how he came to work with Spike Lee:**

Washington recounted how Spike reached out to him with the project out of the blue. â??It was almost like we were working already,â?• he mused. â??I got a text message from a number I didnâ??t recognize, and it read, â??Yo this Spike. Call me.â??â?•

**Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie on acting:**

McKenzie spoke at length about acting as a profession, which included noting how: â??Itâ??s not just putting on a performance; itâ??s not faking; itâ??s being; itâ??s sharing true emotions; and itâ??s an opportunity to make a difference and to tell really important stories.â?•



John David Washington, left, and Thomasin McKenzie speak onstage for the Virtuosos Award Prese

**Richard E. Grant on working with Melissa McCarthy:**

Grant said it took â??3.5 nanosecondsâ?• for him to know that working with Melissa McCarthy would be great. â??We met on a Friday, two years ago in New York in January, and we had two hours together to talk through the scenes in the movie,â?• he recalled. â??I asked her if she was a method actress and she said no; and she said, are you a method actor, and I said no. So we started talking about wigs, and teeth, and costumes, and where our characters lived, and grew up, and what their sex lives were, and then weâ??re off and running.â?• He joked: â??We started shooting on a Monday and sheâ??s have my twins in August.â?•




Richard E. Grant speaks onstage for the Virtuosos Award Presented By UGG during the 34th Santa

**Claire Foy (*First Man*) on channeling emotion while acting:**

â??I feel that I never want to cheapen someoneâ??s real life experience,â?• she told Karger. Instead of thinking back to a moment in her own life in order to channel a particular type of emotion into a scene, Foy asserted: â??I find it moving enough or heartbreaking enough to just think about what someone was going through.â?•




Claire Foy speaks onstage for the Virtuosos Award Presented By UGG during the 34th Santa Barba

**Elsie Fisher (*Eighth Grade*) on eighth grade vs tenth grade:**

Fisher filmed *Eighth Grade* immediately following her actual eighth grade year in school. She is now in tenth grade and when asked what a film about tenth grade might look like, she contemplated: â??Eighth grade is kind of just chaos â?? itâ??s like war. But tenth grade is like two summers after the war, where you can still have PTSD from it but youâ??re a little cooler now.â?•




Elsie Fisher speaks onstage for the Virtuosos Award Presented By UGG during the 34th Santa Barb

**Sam Elliott (*A Star is Born*) on realizing the scope of his role in the final version of the film:**

Elliott didnâ??t realize how substantial his role was in the film until he saw the film at the Toronto International Film Festival. Prior to the screening in Toronto, he had seen a second assembly where, in his own words, â??the relationship between Stefani and Bradley was fully blown, the music was fully developed, but the supporting cast really had gotten hit hard in the edit.â?• Upon seeing the film in Toronto, Elliott recalled: â??That was one of the things that got me. Oh, I really am in this movie.â?•




Sam Elliot speaks onstage for the Virtuosos Award Presented By UGG during the 34th Santa Barba

Stay tuned for more on the hottist ticket in town, the 34th Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Until thenâ?¦..Iâ??ll see you at the movies!




(Sourced from sbiff.org press release)

**Category**

1. #SBIFF
2. Santa Barbara International Film Festival

**Date Created**
February 6, 2019
**Author**
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