



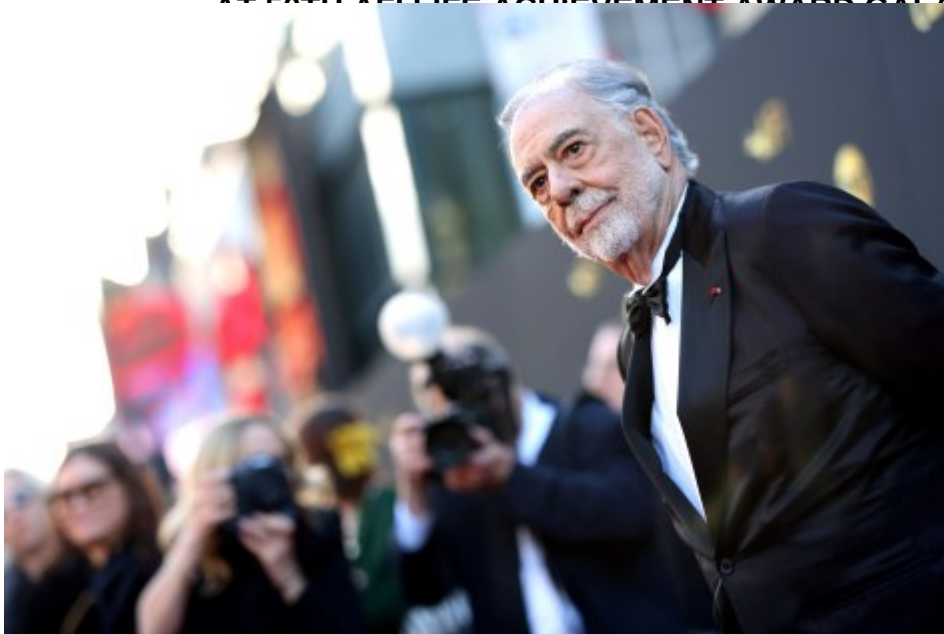
Francis Ford Coppola Honored at 50th AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA HONORED

AT 50TH AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GALA TRIBUTE



Francis Ford Coppola

Robert De Niro, Harrison Ford, Morgan Freeman, Dustin Hoffman, Ron Howard, Spike Lee, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Al Pacino including Family Members Gia Coppola and Roman Coppola Celebrated His Legacy

Special to Premiere on TNT on June 18 at 10:00 pm ET/PT

**Gala Raises Over \$2.5 Million to Support
AFI's Education Programs**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Los Angeles, CA, April 26, 2025 The American Film Institute (AFI) presented the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award to Francis Ford Coppola on Saturday, April 26, at a Gala Tribute at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, surrounded by icons in the entertainment community. The televised special, THE AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA, will premiere on TNT on June 18 at 10:00 pm ET/PT, with an encore airing on TCM on July 31 at 8:00 pm ET/PT. This marks the 10th year the Emmy®-winning AFI Life Achievement Award



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 26: (L-R) George Lucas, Francis Ford Coppola and Steven Spielberg attend the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)

The evening began with welcome remarks from Bob Gazzale, AFI President and CEO, and included tributes to Coppola's illustrious career and his influence on filmmaking from Robert De Niro, Adam Driver, Harrison Ford, Morgan Freeman, Dustin Hoffman, Ron Howard, C. Thomas Howell, Diane Lane, Spike Lee, Ralph Macchio and Al Pacino, plus family members Gia Coppola and Roman Coppola and a performance by Josh Groban of "Brucia La Terra" from THE GODFATHER, CODA: THE DEATH OF MICHAEL CORLEONE. Also included in the show were video clips of an exclusive interview, conducted by his daughter, Oscar®-winning filmmaker Sofia Coppola.

In presenting the award, Steven Spielberg, recipient of the 23rd AFI Life Achievement Award said, “you have taken what came before and redefined the canon of American film” and George Lucas, recipient of the 33rd AFI Life Achievement Award, commented, “we hoped to beat the system, and we did. We had no rules. We wrote the rules with you holding the pen. Thank you for creating an era of filmmakers that loved the movies.” Coppola accepted the award to a standing ovation. In his acceptance speech, he said, “all the beautiful faces are welcoming me back because I am and will always be nothing more than one of you.”



HOLLYWOOD,

CALIFORNIA ??? APRIL 26: Francis Ford Coppola holds the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award onstage at the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)

The event also included a special remembrance of David Lynch (AFI Class of 1970) ??? who passed away in January of this year, and who had been the Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal inaugural recipient in 1991. The medal is awarded to an Alum of either the [AFI Conservatory](#) or [AFI DWW+](#), who best embodies the qualities of Schaffner: talent, taste, dedication and commitment to quality filmmaking.



HOLLYWOOD,

CALIFORNIA ??? APRIL 26: (L-R) Steven Spielberg, Bob Gazzale, CEO, American Film Institute, Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas attend the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Anna Webber/Getty Images for AFI)

The event concluded with attendees receiving an exclusive AFI commemorative tribute book about Coppola's career. Guests were also introduced to the new online tribute site chronicling Coppola's life and career at <http://AFI.com/coppola>.



HOLLYWOOD,

CALIFORNIA ??? APRIL 26: Gia Coppola attends the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Anna Webber/Getty Images for AFI)

Over \$2.5 million raised at the AFI Life Achievement Award Gala will support educational programs at the American Film Institute, a nonprofit organization. To donate to AFI, visit AFI.com/support.

The AFI Life Achievement Award, established by the AFI Board of Trustees in 1973, is presented to a single honoree each year based on the following criteria as mandated through a resolution passed by

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HOLLYWOOD,

CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: Diane Lane speaks onstage at the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)



HOLLYWOOD,

CALIFORNIA ??? APRIL 26: Adam Driver speaks onstage during the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)

GALLERY PHOTOS



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: (L-R) Joe Mantegna and Andy Garc a attend the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: (L-R) Ralph Macchio and C. Thomas Howell attend the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)



Harrison Ford and Andy Garcia



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: Morgan Freeman poses backstage during the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Anna Webber/Getty Images for AFI)



Jack Black



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: Elle Fanning attends the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Anna Webber/Getty Images for AFI)



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: Spike Lee attends the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Anna Webber/Getty Images for AFI)



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: Adam Driver speaks onstage during the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)



HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA â?? APRIL 26: Diane Lane speaks onstage at the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute To Francis Ford Coppola at Dolby Theatre on April 26, 2025 in Hollywood, California. (Photo by Lester Cohen/Getty Images for AFI)

The official sponsor of the 50th AFI Life Achievement Award Gala dinner was [Canva](#), the all-in-one visual communication platform. The official water sponsor was FIJI Water.

AFI Life Achievement Award Recipients

- 1973 John Ford
- 1974 James Cagney
- 1975 Orson Welles
- 1976 William Wyler
- 1977 Bette Davis
- 1978 Henry Fonda
- 1979 Alfred Hitchcock
- 1980 James Stewart
- 1981 Fred Astaire
- 1982 Frank Capra
- 1983 John Huston
- 1984 Lillian Gish
- 1985 Gene Kelly
- 1986 Billy Wilder
- 1987 Barbara Stanwyck

1988 Jack Lemmon
1989 Gregory Peck
1990 David Lean
1991 Kirk Douglas
1992 Sidney Poitier
1993 Elizabeth Taylor
1994 Jack Nicholson
1995 Steven Spielberg
1996 Clint Eastwood
1997 Martin Scorsese
1998 Robert Wise
1999 Dustin Hoffman
2000 Harrison Ford
2001 Barbra Streisand
2002 Tom Hanks
2003 Robert De Niro
2004 Meryl Streep
2005 George Lucas
2006 Sean Connery
2007 Al Pacino
2008 Warren Beatty
2009 Michael Douglas
2010 Mike Nichols
2011 Morgan Freeman
2012 Shirley MacLaine
2013 Mel Brooks

2014 Jane Fonda
2015 Steve Martin
2016 John Williams
2017 Diane Keaton
2018 George Clooney
2019 Denzel Washington
2022 Julie Andrews
2024 Nicole Kidman

Learn more at AFI.com.

About the American Film Institute (AFI)

The American Film Institute (AFI) is a nonprofit organization with a mandate to champion the moving image as an art form. Established in 1967, AFI launched the first comprehensive history of American film and sparked the movement for film preservation in the United States. In 1969, AFI opened the doors of the **AFI Conservatory**, a graduate-level program to train narrative filmmakers. The Conservatory, which counts Deniese Davis, Affonso Gonçalves, Susannah Grant, Matthew Libatique, David Lynch, Melina Matsoukas and Rachel Morrison as Alumni, is ranked as one of the top film schools in America. AFI's enduring traditions include the **AFI Life Achievement Award**, which honors the masters for work that has stood the test of time; **AFI AWARDS**, which celebrates the creative ensembles of the most outstanding screen stories of the year; and scholarly efforts such as the **AFI Catalog of Feature Films** and the **AFI Archive** that preserve film history for future generations. AFI exhibition programs include **AFI FEST Presented by Canva** and year-round exhibition at the **AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center** in Maryland. **AFI Movie Club** is a destination for movie lovers from around the world to celebrate and engage with the art form every day. Other pioneering programs include workshops aimed at elevating emerging storytellers and technology, including **AFI DWW+** and the **AFI Cinematography Intensive Workshop**. Read about all of these programs and more at AFI.com and follow AFI on social media at:

Facebook.com/AmericanFilmInstitute, YouTube.com/AFI, X.com/AmericanFilm, TikTok.com/@americanfilminstitute and Instagram.com/AmericanFilmInstitute

About TNT

TNT, a Warner Bros. Discovery brand, is watched by more people than any other cable network and known for big, lean-forward television that takes viewers on a thrill ride of electrifying stories, dynamic characters and premium events. TNT is home to some of television's most popular sports franchises

and scripted originals including “The Librarians: The Next Chapter.” TNT also presents primetime specials and sports coverage, including the NHL, NBA and NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Championships. Website: www.tntdrama.com

About Turner Classic Movies (TCM)

[Turner Classic Movies](http://www.turnerclassicmovies.com) (TCM) is a two-time Peabody Award-winning network that presents classic films, uncut and commercial-free, from the largest film libraries in the world highlighting “Where Then Meets Now.” TCM features insights from Primetime host Ben Mankiewicz along with hosts Alicia Malone, Dave Karger, Jacqueline Stewart and Eddie Muller, plus interviews with a wide range of special guests and serves as the ultimate movie lover destination. With three decades as a leading authority in classic film, TCM offers critically acclaimed series like The Essentials and Reframed along with annual programming events like 31 Days of Oscar® and Summer Under the Stars. TCM also directly connects with movie fans through popular events such as the annual TCM Classic Film Festival in Hollywood and the TCM Classic Cruise. In addition, TCM produces the wildly successful podcast “The Plot Thickens.” TCM hosts a wealth of material online at tcm.com and through the Watch TCM mobile app. Fans can also enjoy a classic movie experience on the TCM hub on Max.

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