

Ruth Negga to Receive the Rising Star Award at Palm Springs



8th annual **Palm Springs International Film Rising Star Award** at its annual Film Awards Gala for her performance in *Loving.*

The Film Awards Gala, hosted by Mary Hart, will be held Monday, January 2 at the Palm Springs Convention Center. The Festival runs January 2-16.

â??Ruth Neggaâ??s performance as Mildred Loving is one of the yearâ??s most luminous and striking portrayals,â?• said Festival Chairman Harold Matzner. â??This timeless love story about an interracial couple reminds us of the unstoppable power of love in the face of hate and prejudice â?? a story that could not be more resonant and powerful today. This will certainly be just one of many breathtaking performances in a long career. The Palm Springs International Film Festival is honored to present Ruth Negga with this yearâ??s Rising Star Award.â?•

Past recipients of the Rising Star Award include Alicia Vikander, Jennifer Lawrence, Scarlett Johansson, Anna Kendrick, Dakota Fanning, and Terrence Howard.

New in theaters this month from Focus Features, *Loving* is written and directed by Jeff Nichols, and stars Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga as Richard and Mildred Loving. *Loving* celebrates the real-life courage and commitment of the interracial couple who fell in love and were married in 1958. The couple had grown up in Central Point, a small town in Virginia that was more integrated than surrounding areas in the American South. Yet it was the state of Virginia, where they were making their home and starting a family, that first jailed and then banished them. Their civil rights case, Loving v. Virginia, went all the way to the Supreme Court, which in 1967 reaffirmed the very foundation of the right to marry. Richard and Mildred returned home and their love story has become an inspiration to couples ever since.

Ruth Neggaâ??s body of work spans award-winning theatre productions, big-screen dramas, independent films, and innovative television series. Her film work includes *World War Z*, *The Samaritan*, *Breakfast on Pluto*, *Una Vida* (a.k.a. *Of Mind and Music*), *Noble*; *Jimi: All Is by My Side*, *Warcraft*; and *Iona*. Negga won the Irish Film & Television Academy (IFTA) Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of legendary singer Shirley Bassey in the telefilm *Shirley*. Her other TV work includes *Misfits*, *Love/Hate*, the miniseries *Coup* (a.k.a. *Secret State*), *Five Daughters*, and *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, She currently stars on AMCâ??s series *Preacher*.

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, an upscale black-tie event attended by 2,500, honoring the best achievements of the filmic year by a celebrated list of talents who, in recent years, have included Ben Affleck, Javier Bardem, Cate Blanchett, Sandra

Bullock, Bradley Cooper, George Clooney, Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Clint Eastwood, Tom Hanks, Matthew McConaughey, Julianne Moore, Brad Pitt, Eddie Redmayne, Julia Roberts, David O. Russell, Meryl Streep, and Reese Witherspoon.

For more information, call 760-322-2930 or 800-898-7256 or visit www.psfilmfest.org.

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(Source: http://www.psfilmfest.org)

Category

1. Palm Springs International Film Festival

Tags

1. Art
2. Cinema
3. Conversation
4. creativity
5. entertainment
6. Film
7. film festivals
8. Filmmaking
9. inspiration
10. Loving
11. marketing
12. Media
13. Music
14. News
15. Palm Springs International Film Festival
16. Programming
17. Rising Star Award
18. Ruth Negga
19. Ruth NeggaFilm Awards Gala
20. television
21. Women

Date Created
November 23, 2016
Author

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