

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

23rd HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL AWARDS DINNER HONORING EMILY BLUNT, KILLER FILMS, ALBERT MAYSLES, AND OUTGOING HIFF CHAIRMAN, STUART MATCH SUNA

East Hampton, New York (September 17, 2015) — The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) announced today an inaugural Awards Dinner celebrating internationally-acclaimed actress **Emily Blunt**, iconic independent film production company **Killer Films** (celebrating its 20th anniversary), legendary documentary filmmaker **Albert Maysles** (receiving a posthumous tribute), and longtime HIFF board chairman **Stuart Match Suna**, to take place in East Hampton on Sunday, October 11, 2015. The Dinner, which will take place during the 23rd annual Hamptons International Film Festival (October 8–12, 2015), will benefit the Festival's year-round programming initiatives, the annual Screenwriters' Lab, and the longtime summer initiatives; SummerDocs and the Student Filmmaking Workshops.

As part of the Awards Dinner, Emily Blunt will be presented with the Variety Creative Impact in Acting Award. Blunt has been to the festival previously in 2005 when she was recognized as one of HIFF's Rising Stars [now Ten Actors to Watch] program in 2005 in conjunction with her performance in *GIDEON'S DAUGHTER*, for which she won a Golden Globe. One of the most gifted actresses of her generation, Blunt's versatility as a performer can be witnessed in films such as *THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA*, *THE YOUNG VICTORIA*, *EDGE OF TOMORROW*, *INTO THE WOODS*, and the upcoming release *SICARIO*, in which she stars as an FBI agent enlisted by an elected government task force to aid in the escalating war against drugs at the border area between the U.S. and Mexico. The Lionsgate film also stars Benicio Del Toro and Josh Brolin.

Christine Vachon and Pamela Koffler, who founded the New York-based production company Killer Films in 1995, will be honored with the HIFF Industry Award for 20 years of innovative, risk-taking movies and for consistently championing unique voices in independent cinema. Killer Films has produced several of the most acclaimed American independent films over the past two decades, including *CAROL*, *STILL ALICE*, which made its US Premiere at last year's Closing Night of HIFF with Julianne Moore in attendance, *FAR FROM HEAVEN*, *BOYS DON'T CRY*, *HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH*, *HAPPINESS*, and *KIDS*.

Legendary documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles will receive a posthumous tribute. Maysles passed away in March 2015, leaving a rich cinematic legacy, including GREY GARDENS, GIMME SHELTER, SALESMAN, and IRIS, which won HIFF's Audience Award last year for Documentary.

HIFF founding board member, Stuart Match Suna, will be honored for his 18 years as Board Chairman. After this year's festival, Suna will step into the Chair Emeritus role, handing the Chairman reins over to longtime board members Randy Mastro and Alec Baldwin. Under Suna's leadership, the Festival expanded into Southampton, Montauk, Sag Harbor, and Westhampton, and evolved into a year-round cultural organization dedicated to championing film culture. Alec Baldwin will present the award to Suna.

"The Hamptons International Film Festival was founded to celebrate independent voices in cinema, and it is in that spirit that we choose to fete this extraordinary group of individuals, each of whom has made a remarkable impact on independent film culture," said Executive Director Anne Chaisson. "Also, it is with great admiration that we celebrate our outgoing chairman Stuart Match Suna. His vision and support over the past 18 years has led HIFF to where it is today."

For ticketing and additional information, please visit hamptonsfilmfest.org.

The 23rd Annual Hamptons International Film Festival, which will be held over Columbus Day Weekend, October 8th – 12th, 2015, greatly appreciates the support from corporate sponsors, including Delta Air Lines, Altour International, The Wall Street Journal, and WNBC New York. Box office will open on September 26th in NYC, East Hampton and Southampton.

ABOUT THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) is a year-round 501(c)3 non-profit organization with events, screenings, film workshops, comprehensive summer programs and an annual film festival each October. The Festival is the premiere film event on New York State's east end, and is an intimate showcase of some of the year's best offerings in contemporary cinema from around the world. With cash and in-kind prizes handed out totaling more than \$165,000, HIFF continues to attract some of the best films of the year. Selections from all of our programs continue to play an important role during awards season. 2014 marked the 6th time in the last 7 years that a film at the Festival has become the eventual Best Picture winner at the Oscars, making HIFF the only Festival on the East Coast with such a distinction.

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