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**30th FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS
NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED**

- \$75,000 in grants to be awarded to filmmakers -

LOS ANGELES (November 25, 2014) – Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization that produces the Film Independent Spirit Awards, the Los Angeles Film Festival and Film Independent at LACMA, announced nominations for the 2015 Spirit Awards this morning. Film Independent President Josh Welsh presided over the press conference held at the W Hollywood, with actors Rosario Dawson and Diego Luna presenting the nominations. Nominees for Best Feature included ***Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)***, ***Boyhood***, ***Love is Strange***, ***Selma*** and ***Whiplash***.

"As we celebrate 30 years of great independent film," said Josh Welsh, President of Film Independent, "this year's nominees are an astonishingly strong group of films and filmmakers which demonstrate the uniqueness of vision we honor at this show."

Inherent Vice was selected to receive the Robert Altman Award, which is bestowed upon one film's director, casting director and ensemble cast. The Altman Award was created in 2008 in honor of legendary director Robert Altman who was known for creating extraordinary ensemble casts.

"Paul Thomas Anderson's *Inherent Vice* is a testament to the spirit of Altman's tradition of artistic collaboration," said Welsh. "The film features an exquisite ensemble of actors masterfully directed and cast."

Film Independent also awarded a Special Distinction Award to Bennett Miller's ***Foxcatcher*** for its uniqueness of vision, honesty of direction and screenwriting, superb acting and achievement on every level of filmmaking. Due to Spirit Awards guidelines, *Inherent Vice* and *Foxcatcher* were not eligible for individual nominations.

Winners will be announced at the Spirit Awards on Saturday, February 21, 2015. The awards ceremony will be held as a daytime luncheon in a tent on the beach in Santa Monica. This year the show will broadcast live exclusively on IFC at 2:00 PM PT/ 5:00 PM ET.

Winners of the Spirit Awards Filmmaker Grants will be highlighted during the awards ceremony and announced at the Film Independent Spirit Awards Filmmaker Grants and Nominee Brunch on Saturday, January 10, 2015, at BOA Steakhouse in West Hollywood.

The Spirit Awards Nominating Committees selected nominees from 341 submissions this year and applied the following guidelines in determining the nominations: uniqueness of vision, original and provocative subject matter, economy of means (with particular attention paid to total production cost and individual compensation) and percentage of financing from independent sources. The Spirit Awards Nominating Committees are comprised of writers, directors, producers, cinematographers, editors, actors, critics, casting directors, film festival programmers and other working film professionals.

Over the past 30 years the Film Independent Spirit Awards has made a name for itself as the premiere awards show for the independent film community. Artists who have received industry recognition first at the Spirit Awards include Joel and Ethan Coen, Spike Lee, Oliver Stone, Ashley Judd, Robert Rodriguez, David O. Russell, Edward Burns, Aaron Eckhart, Neil LaBute, Darren Aronofsky, Spike Jonze, Charlie Kaufman, Hilary Swank, Marc Forster, Todd Field, Christopher Nolan, Zach Braff, Amy Adams, Lena Dunham and many more.

The Film Independent Spirit Awards are sponsored by Premier Sponsors Piaget, The Lincoln Motor Company, Bank of America, Heineken and IFC. T-Mobile is the Official Arrivals Show Sponsor and FIJI Water is the Official Water of the 2015 Spirit Awards. WireImage is the Official Photographer of Film Independent.

The Spirit Awards is the primary fundraiser for Film Independent's year-round programs. To inquire about individual seating and tables at the Spirit Awards, please contact Jennifer Murby at jmurby@filminddependent.org or 310.432.1253.

For more information on submission guidelines, voting, media and publicist credentials, and the history of the Spirit Awards, please visit spiritawards.com.

2015 FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARD NOMINATIONS

BEST FEATURE (Award given to the producer; executive producers are not awarded.)

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Producers: Alejandro G. Iñárritu, John Lesher, Arnon Milchan, James W. Skotchdopole

Boyhood

Producers: Richard Linklater, Jonathan Sehring, John Sloss, Cathleen Sutherland

Love is Strange

Producers: Lucas Joaquin, Lars Knudsen, Ira Sachs, Jayne Baron Sherman, Jay Van Hoy

Selma

Producers: Christian Colson, Dede Gardner, Jeremy Kleiner, Oprah Winfrey

Whiplash

Producers: Jason Blum, Helen Estabrook, David Lancaster, Michel Litvak

BEST DIRECTOR

Damien Chazelle

Whiplash

Ava DuVernay

Selma

Alejandro G. Iñárritu

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Richard Linklater

Boyhood

David Zellner

Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter

BEST SCREENPLAY

Scott Alexander & Larry Karaszewski

Big Eyes

J.C. Chandor

A Most Violent Year

Dan Gilroy

Nightcrawler

Jim Jarmusch

Only Lovers Left Alive

Ira Sachs & Mauricio Zacharias

Love is Strange

BEST FIRST FEATURE (Award given to the director and producer.)

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night

Director: Ana Lily Amirpour

Producers: Justin Begnaud, Sina Sayyah

Dear White People

Director/Producer: Justin Simien

Producers: Effie T. Brown, Ann Le, Julia Lebedev, Angel Lopez, Lena Waithe

Nightcrawler

Director: Dan Gilroy

Producers: Jennifer Fox, Tony Gilroy, Jake Gyllenhaal, David Lancaster, Michel Litvak

Obvious Child

Director: Gillian Robespierre

Producer: Elisabeth Holm

She's Lost Control

Director/Producer: Anja Marquardt

Producers: Mollye Asher, Kiara C. Jones

BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY

Desiree Akhavan

Appropriate Behavior

Sara Colangelo

Little Accidents

Justin Lader

The One I Love

Anja Marquardt

She's Lost Control

Justin Simien

Dear White People

JOHN CASSAVETES AWARD (Given to the best feature made for under \$500,000. Award given to the writer, director and producer; executive producers are not awarded.)

Blue Ruin

Writer/Director: Jeremy Saulnier

Producers: Richard Peete, Vincent Savino, Anish Savjani

It Felt Like Love

Writer/Director/Producer: Eliza Hittman

Producers: Shrihari Sathe, Laura Wagner

Land Ho!

Writers/Directors: Aaron Katz & Martha Stephens

Producers: Christina Jennings, Mynette Louie, Sara Murphy

Man From Reno

Writer/Director: Dave Boyle

Writers: Joel Clark, Michael Lerman

Producer: Ko Mori

Test

Writer/Director/Producer: Chris Mason Johnson

Producer: Chris Martin

BEST FEMALE LEAD

Marion Cotillard

The Immigrant

Rinko Kikuchi

Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter

Julianne Moore

Still Alice

Jenny Slate

Obvious Child

Tilda Swinton

Only Lovers Left Alive

BEST MALE LEAD

André Benjamin

Jimi: All Is By My Side

Jake Gyllenhaal

Nightcrawler

Michael Keaton

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

John Lithgow

Love is Strange

David Oyelowo

Selma

BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE

Patricia Arquette

Boyhood

Jessica Chastain

A Most Violent Year

Carmen Ejogo

Selma

Andrea Suarez Paz

Stand Clear of the Closing Doors

Emma Stone

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

BEST SUPPORTING MALE

Riz Ahmed

Nightcrawler

Ethan Hawke

Boyhood

Alfred Molina

Love is Strange

Edward Norton

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

J.K. Simmons

Whiplash

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Darius Khondji

The Immigrant

Emmanuel Lubezki

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)

Sean Porter

It Felt Like Love

Lyle Vincent

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night

Bradford Young

Selma

BEST EDITING

Sandra Adair

Boyhood

Tom Cross

Whiplash

John Gilroy

Nightcrawler

Ron Patane

A Most Violent Year

Adam Wingard

The Guest

BEST DOCUMENTARY (Award given to the director and producer.)

20,000 Days on Earth

Directors: Iain Forsyth & Jane Pollard
Producers: Dan Bowen, James Wilson

CITIZENFOUR

Director/Producer: Laura Poitras
Producers: Mathilde Bonnefoy, Dirk Wilutzky

Stray Dog

Director: Debra Granik
Producer: Anne Rosellini

The Salt of the Earth

Directors: Juliano Ribeiro Salgado and Wim Wenders
Producer: David Rosier

Virunga

Director/Producer: Orlando Von Einsiedel
Producer: Joanna Natasegara

BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM (Award given to the director.)

Force Majeure

(Sweden)
Director: Ruben Östlund

Ida

(Poland)
Director: Pawel Pawlikowski

Leviathan

(Russia)
Director: Andrey Zvyagintsev

Mommy

(Canada)
Director: Xavier Dolan

Norte, the End of History

(Philippines)
Director: Lav Diaz

Under the Skin

(United Kingdom)
Director: Jonathan Glazer

ROBERT ALTMAN AWARD (Given to one film's director, casting director and ensemble cast.)

Inherent Vice

Director: Paul Thomas Anderson

Casting Director: Cassandra Kulukundis

Ensemble Cast: Josh Brolin, Martin Donovan, Jena Malone, Joanna Newsom, Joaquin Phoenix, Eric Roberts, Maya Rudolph, Martin Short, Serena Scott Thomas, Benicio Del Toro, Katherine Waterston, Michael Kenneth Williams, Owen Wilson, Reese Witherspoon

SPECIAL DISTINCTION AWARD

Foxcatcher

Director/Producer: Bennett Miller

Producers: Anthony Bregman, Megan Ellison, Jon Kilik

Writers: E. Max Frye, Dan Futterman

Actors: Steve Carell, Mark Ruffalo, Channing Tatum

18th ANNUAL PIAGET PRODUCERS AWARD – The 18th annual Producers Award, sponsored by Piaget, honors emerging producers who, despite highly limited resources, demonstrate the creativity, tenacity and vision required to produce quality, independent films. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant funded by Piaget.

Chad Burris

Elisabeth Holm

Chris Ohlson

21st ANNUAL KIEHL'S SOMEONE TO WATCH AWARD – The 21st annual Someone to Watch Award, sponsored by Kiehl's Since 1851, recognizes a talented filmmaker of singular vision who has not yet received appropriate recognition. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant funded by Kiehl's Since 1851.

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night

Director: Ana Lily Amirpour

H.

Directors: Rania Attieh & Daniel Garcia

The Retrieval

Director: Chris Eska

20th ANNUAL LENS CRAFTERS TRUER THAN FICTION AWARD – The 20th annual Truer Than Fiction Award, sponsored by LensCrafters is presented to an emerging director of non-fiction features who has not yet received significant recognition. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant funded by LensCrafters.

Approaching the Elephant

Director: Amanda Rose Wilder

Evolution of a Criminal

Director: Darius Clark Monroe

The Kill Team

Director: Dan Krauss

The Last Season

Director: Sara Dosa

BY DISTRIBUTOR

Distributor	Nominations	#
A24	<i>A Most Violent Year</i> , Best Editing <i>A Most Violent Year</i> , Best Screenplay <i>A Most Violent Year</i> , Best Supporting Female <i>Obvious Child</i> , Best Female Lead <i>Obvious Child</i> , Best First Feature <i>Under the Skin</i> , Best International Film	6
Amplify	<i>Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter</i> , Best Director <i>Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter</i> , Best Female Lead <i>Little Accidents</i> , Best First Screenplay	3
The Cinema Guild	<i>Norte, The End of History</i> , Best International Film	1
Drafthouse Films	<i>20,000 Days on Earth</i> , Best Documentary	1
Fox Searchlight Pictures	<i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i> , Best Cinematography <i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i> , Best Director <i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i> , Best Feature <i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i> , Best Male Lead <i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i> , Best Supporting Female <i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i> , Best Supporting Male	6
Gravitas Ventures	<i>Appropriate Behavior</i> , Best First Screenplay	1
IFC Films	<i>Boyhood</i> , Best Director <i>Boyhood</i> , Best Editing <i>Boyhood</i> , Best Feature <i>Boyhood</i> , Best Supporting Female <i>Boyhood</i> , Best Supporting Male	5
Kino Lorber	<i>A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night</i> , Best Cinematography <i>A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night</i> , Best First Feature <i>A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night</i> , Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award	3
Magnolia Pictures	<i>Force Majeure</i> , Best International Film	1
Monument Releasing	<i>She's Lost Control</i> , Best First Feature <i>She's Lost Control</i> , Best First Screenplay	2

Music Box Films	<i>Ida</i> , Best International Film	1
Netflix	<i>Virunga</i> , Best Documentary	1
Open Road Films	<i>Nightcrawler</i> , Best Editing <i>Nightcrawler</i> , Best First Feature <i>Nightcrawler</i> , Best Male Lead <i>Nightcrawler</i> , Best Screenplay <i>Nightcrawler</i> , Best Supporting Male	5
Oscilloscope Pictures	<i>Stand Clear of the Closing Doors</i> , Best Supporting Female <i>The Kill Team</i> , LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award	2
Paramount Pictures	<i>Selma</i> , Best Cinematography <i>Selma</i> , Best Director <i>Selma</i> , Best Feature <i>Selma</i> , Best Male Lead <i>Selma</i> , Best Supporting Female	5
Picturehouse	<i>The Guest</i> , Best Editing	1
RADiUS-TWC	<i>Blue Ruin</i> , John Cassavetes Award <i>The One I Love</i> , Best First Screenplay	2
RADiUS-TWC / HBO Documentary Films / Participant Media	<i>CITIZENFOUR</i> , Best Documentary	1
Roadside Attractions	<i>Mommy</i> , Best International Film	1
Roadside Attractions/ Lionsgate	<i>Dear White People</i> , Best First Feature <i>Dear White People</i> , Best First Feature	2
Sony Pictures Classics	<i>Foxcatcher</i> , Special Distinction Award <i>Land Ho!</i> , John Cassavetes Award <i>Leviathan</i> , Best International Film <i>Love is Strange</i> , Best Feature <i>Love is Strange</i> , Best Male Lead <i>Love is Strange</i> , Best Screenplay <i>Love is Strange</i> , Best Supporting Male <i>Only Lovers Left Alive</i> , Best Female Lead <i>Only Lovers Left Alive</i> , Best Screenplay <i>The Salt of the Earth</i> , Best Documentary <i>Still Alice</i> , Best Female Lead <i>Whiplash</i> , Best Director <i>Whiplash</i> , Best Editing <i>Whiplash</i> , Best Feature <i>Whiplash</i> , Best Supporting Male	15

The Weinstein Company	<i>Big Eyes</i> , Best Screenplay <i>The Immigrant</i> , Best Cinematography <i>The Immigrant</i> , Best Female Lead	3
Variance Films	<i>It Felt Like Love</i> , Best Cinematography <i>It Felt Like Love</i> , John Cassavetes Award <i>The Retrieval</i> , Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award	3
Variance Films / Wolfe Video	<i>Test</i> , John Cassavetes Award	1
Warner Bros.	<i>Inherent Vice</i> , Robert Altman Award	1
XLrator Media	<i>Jimi: All Is By My Side</i> , Best Male Lead	1
No Distributor	<i>Approaching the Elephant</i> , LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award <i>Evolution of a Criminal</i> , LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award <i>H.</i> , Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award <i>The Last Season</i> , LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award <i>Man From Reno</i> , John Cassavetes Award <i>Stray Dog</i> , Best Documentary	6

46 FILMS NOMINATED

FILM TITLE	CATEGORIES	#
<i>20,000 Days on Earth</i>	Best Documentary	1
<i>A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night</i>	Best Cinematography Best First Feature Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award	3
<i>A Most Violent Year</i>	Best Editing Best Screenplay Best Supporting Female	3
<i>Approaching the Elephant</i>	LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award	1
<i>Appropriate Behavior</i>	Best First Screenplay	1
<i>Big Eyes</i>	Best Screenplay	1
<i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i>	Best Cinematography Best Director Best Feature Best Male Lead Best Supporting Female Best Supporting Male	6
<i>Blue Ruin</i>	John Cassavetes Award	1
<i>Boyhood</i>	Best Director Best Editing Best Feature Best Supporting Female Best Supporting Male	5
<i>CITIZENFOUR</i>	Best Documentary	1
<i>Dear White People</i>	Best First Feature Best First Screenplay	2
<i>Evolution of a Criminal</i>	LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award	1
<i>Force Majeure</i>	Best International Film	1
<i>Foxcatcher</i>	Special Distinction	1
<i>H.</i>	Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award	1
<i>Ida</i>	Best International Film	1
<i>Inherent Vice</i>	Robert Altman Award	1
<i>It Felt Like Love</i>	Best Cinematography John Cassavetes Award	2
<i>Jimi: All Is By My Side</i>	Best Male Lead	1
<i>Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter</i>	Best Director Best Female Lead	2
<i>Land Ho!</i>	John Cassavetes Award	1
<i>Leviathan</i>	Best International Film	1
<i>Little Accidents</i>	Best First Screenplay	1

<i>Love is Strange</i>	Best Feature Best Male Lead Best Screenplay Best Supporting Male	4
<i>Man From Reno</i>	John Cassavetes Award	1
<i>Mommy</i>	Best International Film	1
<i>Nightcrawler</i>	Best Editing Best First Feature Best Male Lead Best Screenplay Best Supporting Male	5
<i>Norte, The End of History</i>	Best International Film	1
<i>Obvious Child</i>	Best Female Lead Best First Feature	2
<i>Only Lovers Left Alive</i>	Best Female Lead Best Screenplay	2
<i>Selma</i>	Best Cinematography Best Director Best Feature Best Male Lead Best Supporting Female	5
<i>She's Lost Control</i>	Best First Feature Best First Screenplay	2
<i>Stand Clear of the Closing Doors</i>	Best Supporting Female	1
<i>Still Alice</i>	Best Female Lead	1
<i>Stray Dog</i>	Best Documentary	1
<i>Test</i>	John Cassavetes Award	1
<i>The Guest</i>	Best Editing	1
<i>The Immigrant</i>	Best Cinematography Best Female Lead	2
<i>The Kill Team</i>	LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award	1
<i>The Last Season</i>	LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award	1
<i>The One I Love</i>	Best First Screenplay	1
<i>The Retrieval</i>	Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award	1
<i>The Salt of the Earth</i>	Best Documentary	1
<i>Under the Skin</i>	Best International Film	1
<i>Virunga</i>	Best Documentary	1
<i>Whiplash</i>	Best Director Best Editing Best Feature Best Supporting Male	4

ABOUT THE FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

Now in its 30th year, the Film Independent Spirit Awards is an annual celebration that honors artist-driven films made with an economy of means by filmmakers whose films embody independence and originality. The Spirit Awards recognizes the achievements of American and international independent filmmakers and promotes the finest independent films of the year to a wider audience. The winners of the Spirit Awards are voted upon by Film Independent and IFP Members. Awards are given in the following categories: Best Feature, Best First Feature, Best First Screenplay, Best Director, Best Screenplay, John Cassavetes Award (given to the best feature made for a budget under \$500,000), Best Male Lead, Best Female Lead, Best Supporting Male, Best Supporting Female, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, the Robert Altman Award, Best International Film and Best Documentary. The Filmmaker Grants include the Piaget Producers Award, the Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award and the LensCrafters Truer Than Fiction Award. The Film Independent Spirit Awards are sponsored by Premier Sponsors Piaget, The Lincoln Motor Company, Bank of America, Heineken and IFC. T-Mobile is the Official Arrivals Show Sponsor and FIJI Water is the Official Water of the 2015 Spirit Awards. WireImage is the Official Photographer of Film Independent.

[Click here](#) to download the 30th Anniversary Film Independent Spirit Awards logos

Want to vote?

Film Independent Members vote to determine the winners at the Spirit Awards. Members can attend free Nominee Screening Series in Los Angeles and New York and receive DVD screeners of select nominees by mail. Members must be current by December 5, 2014 to receive full voting benefits.

Join today [at filmIndependent.org/membership](http://filmIndependent.org/membership)

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