

# FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**31st FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS TO BE BROADCAST LIVE  
EXCLUSIVELY ON IFC, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016  
2:00 pm PT / 5:00 pm ET**

## **JOEL GALLEN RETURNS TO EXECUTIVE PRODUCE SHOW**

LOS ANGELES (October 20, 2015)— Film Independent announced today that the 2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards will be broadcast exclusively on [IFC](#) on February 27, 2016, LIVE at 2:00 pm PT / 5:00 pm ET. This year marks the 31st edition of the awards show that celebrates the best of independent film. Joel Gallen of Tenth Planet Productions returns for his second year as executive producer of the show held in its usual tent on the beach in Santa Monica, in a new location this year just north of the Santa Monica Pier. Producer Shawn Davis returns for his 14th show and Rick Austin returns for his second year as producer. This year's nominees will be announced at a press conference on Tuesday, November 24 at the W Hollywood and on [spiritawards.com](http://spiritawards.com).

"After last year's great show we are thrilled to have Joel Gallen back as our EP," said Film Independent President Josh Welsh. "We are excited to be back on IFC, I can't imagine better partners than Jen Caserta and her entire team."

"We are pleased to continue to partner with Film Independent as the irreverent and informal approach of the Spirit Awards is a seamless fit with our 'always on, slightly off' brand," said Jennifer Caserta, IFC's president. "We are excited to celebrate the best independent films and provide an exclusive platform for what has become Hollywood's kick off to awards season."

Joel Gallen's credits include the Emmy nominated specials *Stand Up To Cancer* (2014, 2012), the *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Concert* (2009), *Hope For Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief* (2010) and the Emmy and Peabody Award winning *America: A Tribute to Heroes* (2001). He produced the MTV Movie Awards for 12 consecutive years from 1995 to 2006. He has also produced the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony since 2003 and the Comedy Central Roasts for the last 11 years including the most recent roast featuring Justin Bieber. Gallen executive produced and directed the *Concert for Valor* for HBO.

About his return to the Film Independent Spirit Awards, executive producer Joel Gallen had this to say, "I love producing the Spirit Awards, not just because of how much it means to the independent film community, but because it's such a fun and relaxed vibe in the tent. Last year all the speeches were so spontaneous and 'in the moment', not one acceptance speech was read from a folded up piece of paper. That may have been the first time in award show history that happened!"

In addition to celebrating the broad spectrum of independent filmmaking, the Spirit Awards is also the primary fundraiser for Film Independent's year-round programs, which cultivate the careers of emerging filmmakers and promote diversity in the industry. To learn more about donations, table sales and attendance, please contact [jmurby@filmIndependent.org](mailto:jmurby@filmIndependent.org) or 310.432.1253.

**Download the new [Film Independent Spirit Awards logo](#).**

## **ABOUT THE FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS**

Now in its 31st year, the Film Independent Spirit Awards is an annual celebration honoring 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 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, Best International Film, Best Documentary and the Robert Altman Award. The Filmmaker Grants include the Piaget Producers Award, the Kiehl's Someone to Watch Award and the Truer Than Fiction Award. The Film Independent Spirit Awards are sponsored by Premier Sponsors Piaget, Heineken, American Airlines and IFC. FIJI Water is the Official Water of the 2016 Spirit Awards. WireImage is the Official Photographer of Film Independent.

## **ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT**

Film Independent is a nonprofit arts organization that champions independent film and supports a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation and uniqueness of vision. Film Independent helps filmmakers make their movies, builds an audience for their projects, and works to diversify the film industry. Film Independent's Board of Directors, filmmakers, staff and constituents is comprised of an inclusive community of individuals across ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race and sexual orientation. Anyone passionate about film can become a Member, whether you are a filmmaker, industry professional or a film lover. In addition to producing the Spirit Awards, Film Independent produces the Los Angeles Film Festival and Film Independent at LACMA Film Series, a year-round, weekly program that offers unique cinematic experiences for the Los Angeles creative community and the general public.

With over 250 annual screenings and events, Film Independent provides access to a network of like-minded artists who are driving creativity in the film industry. Film Independent's Artist Development program offers free Labs for selected writers, directors, producers and documentary filmmakers and presents year-round networking opportunities. Project Involve is Film Independent's signature program dedicated to fostering the careers of talented filmmakers from communities traditionally underrepresented in the film industry.

For more information or to become a Member, visit  
[filmIndependent.org/membership](http://filmIndependent.org/membership).

## **About IFC**

IFC is the home of offbeat, unexpected comedies. Series like *Portlandia*, *Documentary Now!*, *Maron* and *Comedy Bang! Bang!* air alongside fan-favorite movies and comedic cult TV shows. IFC is owned and operated by AMC Networks Inc., and available across multiple platforms. IFC is *Always On Slightly Off*.

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