

FILM iNDEP eNDENT SPiRiT AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**PIAGET, BANK OF AMERICA, HEINEKEN, AMERICAN AIRLINES, JAGUAR
AND IFC TO SERVE AS PREMIER SPONSORS OF THE
2016 FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS**

***Premiere broadcast airing live exclusively on IFC at 2:00 pm PT / 5:00 pm
ET on Saturday, February 27***

LOS ANGELES (February 26, 2016) - Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization that produces the Spirit Awards, the Film Independent at LACMA Film Series and LA Festival, announced its sponsors for the 2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards, which will be held on the beach in Santa Monica on Saturday, February 27, 2016. The Premier Sponsors of the Film Independent Spirit Awards are Piaget, Bank of America, Heineken, American Airlines, Jaguar, and IFC. EFFEN Vodka is the Official Spirit, FIJI Water is the Official Water and Presqu'île Wine is the Official Wine of the 2016 Spirit Awards. Wireimage is the official Photographer of Film Independent.

The awards ceremony will air live exclusively at 2:00 pm PT / 5:00 pm ET and premiere later that evening at 10:00 pm ET/PT exclusively on IFC, with Kate McKinnon and Kumail Nanjiani co-hosting the show.

For the ninth consecutive year, Piaget is proud to be a Premier sponsor of the Film Independent Spirit Awards. Once again, the luxury Swiss watchmaker and jeweler will present the Piaget Producers Award in recognition of outstanding creative vision and achievement. Piaget will continue to host its exclusive

backstage VIP lounge, where the event's most celebrated artists retreat to enjoy a joyful moment.

For the second year, Bank of America is a Premier Sponsor of the Film Independent Spirit Awards. Throughout the partnership, Bank of America has sponsored the Awards Ceremony, Nominee Screening Series & Nominee Brunch. Bank of America has a long-standing commitment to the arts sector, which reflects the belief that the arts are a powerful tool to help economies thrive, to help individuals connect with each other and across cultures, and to educate and enrich societies. Bank of America supports the arts domestically as well as serves as a cultural diplomat through global programs such as international tours of a world renowned symphony and dance troupe and provides funding for museums, theater, and dance worldwide, in addition to a distinctive conservation program which preserves the integrity of art of many nations and cultures.

Heineken is proud to continue its partnership with Film Independent and to be the official beer sponsor of the 31st Annual Film Independent Spirit Awards in 2016. With this partnership, Heineken continues to support and demonstrate its passion for the independent film community. At this year's Spirit Awards, Heineken will host guests and celebrities on the arrivals carpet as well as during the awards show. Heineken USA Inc., the nation's leading upscale beer importer, is a subsidiary of Heineken International BV, the world's most international brewer. For the latest information on our company and brands, follow us on Twitter [@Heineken_US](#) or visit [Heineken.com](#).

[American Airlines](#) is proud to return for their second year as the official airline and a premier sponsor of the Film Independent Spirit Awards. This year, guests can enjoy a taste of the American premium experience at its exclusive backstage lounge at the Spirit Awards. American has been the preferred airline of the entertainment industry at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) since its first flight at LAX more than 80 years ago. Today, the world's largest airline offers more than 220 daily departures from LAX to 70 destinations around the world, including new flights to Auckland and Sydney. American offers its award-winning First and Business Class service on the Airbus A321T to New York's JFK and more fully lie-flat, direct aisle access seats and Wi-Fi on all of its new 777-300ER and 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

Jaguar North America is a premier manufacturer of luxury sedans, sports cars and performance SUVs offering unparalleled design and tremendous performance. The company's vision throughout its storied history has been simple: to produce beautiful, fast cars that are desired the world over. Jaguar strives to provide a world class ownership experience to every owner. Today's Jaguar line up consists of the Jaguar XE and XF sports sedans, the XJ luxury sedan, the two-seat F-TYPE sports car and the brand's first-ever SUV, the F-

PACE. Jaguar designs, engineers and manufactures exclusively in the United Kingdom, at the Solihull and Castle Bromwich manufacturing plants, both in the British Midlands. Jaguar is fully engaged with sustainability initiatives and social concerns with continuous involvement in environmental and community programs. For more information visit the official Jaguar website at www.jaguarusa.com.

Breyers® Gelato Indulgences™ is proud to be an Official Sponsor of the 31st Film Independent Spirit Awards. After the product line's successful U.S. debut in 2014, Breyers® Gelato Indulgences™, with its rich trio of textures – creamy gelato, luscious sauce and gourmet toppings – will introduce two new deliciously indulgent flavors to guests at this year's annual Film Independent Spirit Awards via an exclusive Backstage Hospitality Suite. Guests and celebrities will have the opportunity to have a first taste of Breyers® Gelato Indulgences™ Peanut Butter Chocolate, featuring creamy peanut butter gelato with a milk chocolate swirl and gourmet chocolate peanut butter cups, and Breyers® Gelato Indulgences™ Salted Caramel Truffle, featuring salted caramel gelato with a creamy caramel sauce and gourmet salted caramel truffles, as well as enjoy Breyers® Gelato Indulgences™ Raspberry Cheesecake, featuring cheesecake gelato with luscious raspberry sauce and graham crumble. Other nationally available Breyers® Gelato Indulgences™ varieties include Vanilla Caramel, Tiramisu, Raspberry Cheesecake, Cappuccino, Chocolate Caramel, Chocolate Fudge Truffle and Chocolate Hazelnut. For more product information, please visit Breyers.com or visit the Breyers® Facebook fan page at Facebook.com/Breyers, follow Breyers® on Twitter at Twitter.com/Breyers or Pinterest Pinterest.com/Breyers.

EFFEN® Vodka is thrilled to be the exclusive spirit of the 2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards. EFFEN® Vodka is a super-premium vodka whose name means smooth, even and balanced in Dutch. It is made from 100% premium wheat and a continuous distillation process, which results in a silky, smooth liquid. Those who are deliberate about the details they choose, from their clothes and clubs to their cocktails and company, choose a vodka with similar priorities.

For the third consecutive year, Kiehl's Since 1851, the venerable New York-based purveyor of fine quality skin and hair care products, is proud to support the Film Independent Spirit Awards by sponsoring the Someone To Watch Grant. The brand is honored to be a part of this event, highlighting the talented filmmakers and actors that work within the community. This year, Spirit Awards guests will also have the opportunity to enjoy an assortment of Kiehl's products in the event facilities. In addition, Kiehl's is thrilled to support Film Independent's signature diversity program, Project Involve. As Lead Funder of Project Involve Short Film production, Kiehl's will help cultivate the careers of filmmakers from communities traditionally underrepresented in the industry. To learn more about

Kiehl's, please visit www.kiehls.com, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Instagram ([@KiehlsNYC](https://www.instagram.com/KiehlsNYC)).

For the third consecutive year, FIJI® Water will serve as the official water of the 31st annual Film Independent Spirit Awards honoring excellence in American independent filmmaking. FIJI Water, with custom FIJI straws, will be tray passed to guests upon arrival and featured on every table during the televised ceremony. FIJI Water, natural artesian water bottled at the source in Viti Levu (Fiji islands), is the No. 1 premium bottled water in the United States. FIJI Water, known for its iconic square bottle, soft mouth feel and unique mineral profile, is the water of choice among discerning consumers and top chefs. Widely available at fine restaurants and hotels, all major retail channels and through a convenient home/business delivery service, FIJI Water has expanded globally to more than 60 countries. To discover Earth's Finest Water, please visit www.fijiwater.com, like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

Santa Barbara County's acclaimed Presqu'ile (pronounced press-KEEL) winery is proud to be the official wine sponsor at this year's Film Independent Spirit Awards. Though a first-time sponsor, Presqu'ile and its founders, the Murphy family, are long-time supporters of the arts. Located in the heart of the Santa Maria Valley, Presqu'ile is recognized for making exceptional cool-climate Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays using grapes from its own sustainably certified Presqu'ile Vineyard, as well as from a handful of the finest vineyards in the valley. These wines have earned renown for their elegance and balance. Presqu'ile's Santa Maria Valley Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are the exclusive wines of the 2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards. To learn more, please visit www.presquilewine.com

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 LA 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.