

# FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Melanie Bates, Film Independent

Tel: 323.556.9338 or [mbates@filmIndependent.org](mailto:mbates@filmIndependent.org)

Gladys Santos, Ginsberg/Libby

Tel: 323.645.6800 or [gladys.santos@ginsberglibby.com](mailto:gladys.santos@ginsberglibby.com)

## **AUBREY PLAZA TO HOST 34TH FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS**

**Broadcast Live Exclusively on IFC**

**Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 2:00 pm PT / 5:00 pm ET**

LOS ANGELES (November 27, 2018) – This morning, Film Independent announced that Aubrey Plaza (*Ingrid Goes West*, *Legion*, *Parks & Recreation*) will host the 2019 Film Independent Spirit Awards. The Spirit Awards are the primary fundraiser for Film Independent's year-round programs, which cultivate the careers of emerging filmmakers and promote diversity in the industry. Nominees were announced by Gemma Chan (*Crazy Rich Asians*, *Captain Marvel*, *Mary Queen of Scots*) and Molly Shannon (*Divorce*, *Private Life*, *Other People*) at a press conference on November 16. Best Feature nominees include *Eighth Grade*, *First Reformed*, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Leave No Trace* and *You Were Never Really Here*. The show will broadcast live exclusively on IFC at 2:00 pm PT/ 5:00 pm ET on Saturday, February 23, 2019.

"I am truly honored and delighted to host the Spirits Awards this year," said Host Aubrey Plaza. "It is a dream come true to host a show that celebrates my greatest loves... independent film, the people that make them possible and live television!"

"The search for a great Spirit Awards host is never easy," said Film Independent President Josh Welsh. "This year we said, let's find someone funny, smart, a cinephile, being a great actor wouldn't hurt, and it would be an added bonus if they've previously won a Spirit Award. Then we realized, oh wait, that's Aubrey Plaza! So thank you Aubrey, for hosting the Spirits!"

“As the awards season slogs to the end, let’s raise a glass to the infectious enthusiasm that only Aubrey Plaza will bring to this party,” said IFC Executive Director, Blake Callaway.

Aubrey Plaza starred opposite Elizabeth Olsen in Matt Spicer’s acclaimed feature *Ingrid Goes West*, which Plaza also produced. As a producer, she received a Film Independent Spirit Award for “Best First Feature” and the film was also nominated for “Best First Screenplay.” Aubrey currently stars in Noah Hawley’s television series, *Legion* on FX. The series, which is based on the Marvel Comic of the same name, has received critical acclaim and will premiere season three in 2019. On television, Aubrey starred in the Emmy nominated comedy series *Parks and Recreation* with Amy Poehler. Aubrey’s recent film credits include producing and starring in Jeff Baena’s *The Little Hours* alongside Alison Brie, Dave Franco, Nick Offerman, and Molly Shannon (2017 Sundance Film Festival) and Jim Hosking’s *An Evening with Beverly Luff Linn* opposite Craig Robinson and Jemaine Clement (2018 Sundance Film Festival). Plaza will next star in Lars Klevberg’s remake of *Child’s Play* opposite Brian Tyree Henry which will open on June 21, 2019.

This year marks the 34th edition of the awards show that celebrates the best of independent film. Past Spirit Awards hosts have included Nick Kroll and John Mulaney, Kate McKinnon and Kumail Nanjiani, Fred Armisen and Kristen Bell, Patton Oswalt, Andy Samberg, Joel McHale, Sarah Silverman, Samuel L. Jackson, Eddie Izzard, Queen Latifah and John Waters to name a few. The show, which will be held on the beach in Santa Monica, will be executive produced and directed by Joel Gallen of Tenth Planet Productions for the fifth consecutive year. Shawn Davis returns as producer for his 17th year, Rick Austin returns for his fourth year and Danielle Federico and Andrew Schaff also return as co-producers.

Winners, who are selected by Film Independent Members, will be announced at the Spirit Awards on Saturday, February 23, 2019. The awards ceremony will be held on the beach in Santa Monica, just north of the Santa Monica Pier.

Winners of the Spirit Awards Filmmaker Grants will be announced at the Film Independent Spirit Awards Filmmaker Grant and Nominee Brunch on Saturday, January 5, 2019, at BOA Steakhouse in West Hollywood.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Albina Oks, Director of Corporate Sponsorship, [aoks@filmindependent.org](mailto:aoks@filmindependent.org).

To learn more about attending the Spirit Awards and supporting Film Independent please contact Jennifer Murby, Associate Director of Institutional Giving, [jmurby@filmindependent.org](mailto:jmurby@filmindependent.org).

For more information on submission guidelines, voting, media and publicist credentials, and the history of the Spirit Awards, please visit [spiritawards.com](http://spiritawards.com).

**Media Credential Applications:** [filmIndependent.org/press/](http://filmIndependent.org/press/)

### **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, receive DVD screeners of select nominees by mail and digital screeners online. Members must be current by December 6, 2018 to receive full voting benefits.

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

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

Now in its 34th 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 Film Independent Spirit Awards are sponsored by Premier Sponsors American Airlines, AT&T, IFC and Subaru of America, Inc. FIJI Water is the Official Water. Getty Images is the Official Photographer. TOWN & COUNTRY EVENT RENTALS is the Exclusive Rental Company.

### **ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT**

Film Independent is the nonprofit arts organization that champions creative independence in visual storytelling 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 Film Independent Presents, a year-round screening series for its members that offers unique cinematic experiences for the Los Angeles creative community and the general public.

Through 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](http://filmIndependent.org).

### **About IFC**

IFC is the home of offbeat, unexpected comedies. Series *Brockmire*, *Stan Against Evil*, *Baroness von Sketch Show* and *Documentary Now!* 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.

###