

FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Seanna Hore, Ginsberg/Libby
seanna.hore@ginsberglibby.com

Gladys Santos, Ginsberg/Libby
gladys.santos@ginsberglibby.com

**FILM INDEPENDENT BREAKS TRADITION MOVING THE 2021 SPIRIT AWARDS TO
THURSDAY, APRIL 22 AT 10:00 PM ET, FOR A UNIQUE EVENING TELECAST
BROADCAST EXCLUSIVELY ON IFC**

**LAVERNE COX, BARRY JENKINS & OLIVIA WILDE TO ANNOUNCE NOMINEES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 10:00 AM ET / 7:00 AM PT ON YOUTUBE**

LOS ANGELES (January 21, 2021) – Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization that produces the Film Independent Spirit Awards, announced today that this year’s awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 22 at 10:00 pm ET, in a prime-time ceremony to be televised on IFC, a one-time break from the show’s usual tradition as a live daytime event occurring on the Santa Monica beach the Saturday before the Oscars.

Nominees for the 36th Film Independent Spirit Awards will be revealed in a video announcement premiering Tuesday, January 26 at 10:00 am ET / 7:00 am PT on Film Independent’s [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Presenters will include Laverne Cox (*Disclosure*, *Promising Young Woman*) and Spirit Award winners Barry Jenkins (*If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Moonlight*, *The Underground Railroad*) and Olivia Wilde (*Booksmart*, *Don’t Worry Darling*). The January 26 nominations will also include the addition of several new television categories, as announced in a September 2020 [press release](#).

“The Spirit Awards are a time for us to come together – filmmakers and film lovers alike – and celebrate the movies, shows and performances that have sustained us through these incredibly challenging times,” said Film Independent President Josh Welsh. “While

2020 left a lot to be desired, it was an amazing year for film and TV. Visual storytellers with powerful and unique voices brought us so much joy and light during these difficult months. We're thrilled to share our nominations with the world, and I encourage everyone to join Film Independent and vote on the winners."

Said Blake Callaway, Executive Director, IFC and SundanceTV, "IFC is proud to continue its partnership with Film Independent by bringing the Spirit Awards and the films it champions to audiences across the country. The celebration of independent voices is more important today than ever before, and while we'll miss the beach in Santa Monica, we still plan on making the Spirit Awards the most fun stop on the awards circuit."

In addition to the linear broadcast on IFC, the Spirit Awards will also stream simultaneously on AMC+. Following the broadcast, the full awards ceremony will be made available on demand across AMC+ and IFC platforms starting Friday, April 23.

Film Independent will continue to honor emerging filmmakers with the Truer Than Fiction Award, Producers Award and the Someone to Watch Award.

Want to vote?

As always, winners are selected by Members of Film Independent. Members must be current by February 11 to receive full voting benefits, including access to nominee screeners. To join Film Independent and vote on the Spirit Awards, please visit filmindependent.org/join.

The Spirit Awards are the primary fundraiser for Film Independent's year-round programs, which cultivate the careers of emerging filmmakers and promote diversity and inclusion in the film industry. To learn more about supporting Film Independent's mission and programs, contact Jennifer Murby at jmurby@filmindependent.org. To learn about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Stephanie Terifay at sterifay@filmindependent.org.

To learn more about the Spirit Awards eligibility rules and regulations please visit filmindependent.org/spirit-awards/faq.

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 are

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.

The winners of the Film Independent Spirit Awards are voted upon by Film Independent Members. Membership is open to the public. For more information or to become a Member, visit filmIndependent.org.

ABOUT IFC

IFC is the home of offbeat, unexpected comedies. Acclaimed series *Documentary Now!*, *Sherman's Showcase*, *Baroness von Sketch Show* and *Year of the Rabbit* 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.

ABOUT AMC+

AMC+ is the company's new premium streaming bundle featuring an extensive lineup of popular and critically acclaimed original programming from across AMC Networks' entertainment networks and a number of the company's targeted streaming services including Shudder, Sundance Now and IFC Films Unlimited, which feature content such as *Riviera*, *Creepshow*, *A Discovery of Witches* and *Boyhood*. Currently available to Amazon Prime Video Channels, Apple TV channels, Roku Channels, Comcast Xfinity, DirecTV, DISH and Sling TV customers, AMC+ features a continually refreshed new library of commercial-free content, including *Mad Men*, *Gangs of London*, *The Salisbury Poisonings*, *Orphan Black*, *Portlandia*, *Soulmates* and *The Walking Dead: World Beyond*, among many others.

###