



WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES CELEBRATED THE 2019 WOMEN IN FILM ANNUAL GALA

AMY POEHLER, ISSA RAE, ELIZABETH DEBICKI AND CATHY SCHULMAN HONORED DIRECTORS ANNE FLETCHER, DEBRA GRANIK, MARIELLE HELLER, MIMI LEDER AND CHLOÉ ZHAO NAMED WINNERS OF THE INAUGURAL WIF MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD

GALA INTRODUCED THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF REFRAME RISE DIRECTORS

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Beverly Hills, CA (June 13, 2019) – Last night, **Women In Film, Los Angeles** (WIF, LA) celebrated outstanding women in the entertainment industry with the **2019 Women In Film Annual Gala** presented by Max Mara with additional support from Delta Air Lines and Lexus. Formerly named the Crystal + Lucy Awards®, the Women In Film Annual Gala supports WIF LA's educational and philanthropic programs and its advocacy for gender parity for women throughout the industry. The evening, hosted by actress **Xosha Roquemore**, was held at The Beverly Hilton.

This year's Women In Film Annual Gala recognized women whose entrepreneurial strides are creating opportunities for more women to succeed in careers in the screen industries. The 2019 Women In Film Annual Gala honored **Amy Poehler** with *The Women In Film Entrepreneur in Entertainment Award* presented to her by **Natasha Lyonne**; **Issa Rae** with *The Women In Film Emerging Entrepreneur Award* presented to her by **Stephanie Allain**; **Cathy Schulman** with *The Crystal Award for Advocacy in Entertainment* presented to her by **Viola Davis**; **Elizabeth Debicki** with the *Women In Film Max Mara Face of the Future Award* presented to her by Max Mara Vice President US Retail and Global Brand Ambassador **Maria Giulia Maramotti**.

During the Gala, **Lake Bell**, actress/director and WIF, LA Board Member revealed the winners of the inaugural **WIF Members' Choice Award**, which focuses on female directors, highlighting the narrative features that had a U.S. theatrical release in 2018. All WIF LA members were invited to cast their vote for one of these eligible films directed by a woman. The winners of the WIF Members' Choice Award included **Mimi Leder** (*On The Basis Of Sex*), **Marielle Heller** (*Can You Ever Forgive Me?*), **Debra Granik** (*Leave No Trace*), **Chloé Zhao** (*The Rider*) and **Anne Fletcher** (*Dumplin'*).

Additionally, **ReFrame™**, a collaborative initiative of WIF LA and Sundance Institute, announced the inaugural class of **ReFrame Rise™** directors. Actor, director and producer, **Kyra Sedgwick**, introduced the inaugural class of ReFrame Rise directors, which include **Desiree Akhavan**, **Haifaa al-Mansour**, **Patricia Cardoso**, **Hanelle Culpepper**, **Sydney Freeland**, **Zetna Fuentes**, **Tina Mabry** and **Meera Menon**, four of whom were in attendance (Haifaa al-Mansour, Patricia Cardoso, Hanelle Culpepper and Tina Mabry). Commenting on the program, Sedgwick stated: "As an actor transitioning into directing, I know how important it is to be supported at every level in this industry – and that it requires a community-wide commitment to expand the lens and include bright new voices and perspectives."

ReFrame Rise is a comprehensive and customized 2-year sponsorship that provides endorsement and support to accelerate high-level sustainable careers for experienced female directors who are poised to lead studio and independent features, pilots and episodic television across all platforms. It was also announced that Hulu joined ReFrame Rise for a three-year commitment. Participants selected for the ReFrame Rise Directors Program receive complimentary memberships to IMDbPro (<http://www.imdbpro.com>), the essential resource for entertainment industry professionals, to manage and showcase their IMDb profile and discover and connect with

key collaborators to bring their projects to life. For more information about the inaugural class of ReFrame Rise directors, visit <https://www.reframeproject.org/reframe-rise>.

Gala attendees included **Amy Baer** (WIF, LA Board President), **Annie Starke** (*The Wife*), **Charlie Barnett** (*Russian Doll*, *You*), **Christina Ochoa** (*A Million Little Things*), **Cindy Chupack** (Director/Writer, *Otherhood*), **Claudia Kim** (*Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*), **Elizabeth Frances** (*The Son*), **Erika Christensen** (*To Have and To Hold*), **Harley Quinn Smith** (*Jay and Silent Bob Reboot*), **Jaime King** (*Black Summer*), **Jennifer Kaytin Robinson** (Director/Producer/Writer, *Someone Great*), **Katie Cassidy** (*Arrow*), **Kirsten Schaffer** (WIF, LA Executive Director), **LaKeith Stanfield** (*Someone Great*, *Atlanta*), **Melanie Liburd** (*This Is Us*, *Brian Banks*), **Mishel Prada** (*Vida*), **Retta** (*Good Girls*), **Rosanna Arquette** (*Ratched*), **Ryan Michelle Bathe** (*The First Wives Club*), **Shivani Rawat** (Producer, *Brian Banks*), **Tiffany Dupont** (*Brian Banks*) and more.

Event Highlights:

- **Natasha Lyonne** when presenting The Women In Film Entrepreneur in Entertainment Award to **Amy Poehler** said, “On a personal level, Amy Poehler really taught me how to take up space unapologetically, and for that I am deeply grateful to you forever, and I really love you.”
- **Issa Rae** when accepting The Women In Film Emerging Entrepreneur Award said, “As women we tend to downplay ourselves, to dim our light, and we are kind of conditioned socially to be humble. I grew up being a huge hip hop fan, and none of my favorite artists are humble.”
- **Viola Davis** when presenting The Crystal Award for Advocacy in Entertainment to **Cathy Schulman** said, “In a world that has a bad habit of erasing us girls — of denying our history, our voices, our very personhood — we need champions like Cathy Schulman to drag that world kicking and screaming into the present, and on to the future.”
- **Cathy Schulman** when accepting The Crystal Award for Advocacy in Entertainment said, “Inclusion is what happens when diverse people are actually present in equal numbers in decision-making positions. When they are valued and heard. When their diverse opinions are considered equally.”
- On-stage **Amy Baer**, Women In Film, LA Board President said, “The actor, producer, director and writer are not sole creators. No film or series happens without a grip, gaffer, costumer or post supervisor. Women In Film must—and will—evolve into more inclusive advocacy. We’re all on the same team.”
- **Amy Poehler, Annie Starke, Elizabeth Debicki, Issa Rae, Jaime King, Maria Giulia Maramotti and Viola Davis** arrived dressed in **Max Mara**.
- Guests all took home a gift bag with an assortment of **Fenty Beauty by Rihanna** products.
- **Lexus** showcased the 2019 LS 500 sedan inside the ballroom and an interactive photo booth for guests to enjoy.
- For additional highlights and clips of the honoree speeches, please view the clips in the [EPK](#).

The Women In Film Annual Gala Co-Chairs are **Amy Baer, Esther Chang, Hannah Minghella** and **Talitha Watkins**. The event is designed and produced by Carleen Cappelletti of Anchor Street Collective.

About Women In Film, ReFrame, and the Awards

Women In Film advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries—to achieve parity and transform culture. Founded in 1973, Women In Film supports all women working in film, TV, and digital media from emerging to advanced career. Our distinguished programs include: mentoring, speaker & screening series, production training program, writing labs, film finishing funds, legal aid and an annual financing intensive. Women In Film advocates for gender parity through research, education and media campaigns. Women In Film honors the achievements of women in Hollywood through the legacy series, annual Emmy and Oscar parties and our signature event, the Women In Film Annual Gala. Membership is open to all media professionals and more information can be found on our website: wif.org. Follow Women In Film on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

Founded and led by Women In Film and Sundance Institute, **ReFrame** employs a unique strategy, a peer-to-peer approach, in which ReFrame Ambassadors engage with senior, industry decision-makers at over 50 Partner Companies to implement ReFrame programs. The initiative’s goals are to provide research, support, and a practical framework that can be used by Partner Companies to mitigate bias during the creative decision-making and hiring process, celebrate successes, and measure progress toward a more gender-representative industry on all levels. For more information download the ReFrame Culture Change Handbook or visit

ReFrameProject.org. ReFrame is made possible by support from The Harnisch Foundation; IMDbPro; Melanie Backer—Backer Charitable Trust; Hulu; Mercer; the Women at Sundance Leadership Council: Ruth Ann Harnisch, Katy Drake Bettner, Barbara Bridges, Abigail Disney, Cristina Ljungberg, Ann Lovell, Susan Bay Nimoy, Patty Quillin, Brenda Robinson, Kimberly Steward, Lynda Weinman, and Jenifer Westphal; Delta Air Lines; Zola Mashariki; and an anonymous donor. Special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The **Women In Film Entrepreneur in Entertainment Award** celebrates the ongoing achievements of an individual whose work nurtures the advancement of their female collaborators. Integral to the conscientiousness of the recipient's professional endeavors are principles accordant with the mission of Women In Film. Just as their creative output is shaping the landscape of high-quality stories and entertainment, their influence is benefiting the conversation about gender parity in our industry.

The **Women In Film Emerging Entrepreneur Award** honors a promising talent in the fields of film, television, and/or digital media, whose professional pursuits are resulting in progress for the next generation of talented women. Its recipient has demonstrated a foundation for her career comprising of accomplishments marrying creative achievements and business acumen.

The **Women In Film Max Mara Face of the Future Award**[®], inaugurated at Women In Film's 2006 Crystal + Lucy Awards[®], is given to an actress who is experiencing a turning point in her career through her work in the film and television industries, through her contributions to the community at large, in recognition of her outstanding achievements, and her embodiment of style and grace. Past recipients include Alexandra Shipp, Zoey Deutch, Natalie Dormer, Kate Mara, Rose Byrne, Hailee Steinfeld, Chloë Grace Moretz, Katie Holmes, Zoë Saldana, Elizabeth Banks, Ginnifer Goodwin, Emily Blunt, and Maria Bello.

The **Crystal Award for Advocacy in Entertainment** is a reenvisioning of the iconic Crystal Award, which was established in 1977 to honor outstanding women who, through their endurance and the excellence of their work, have helped to expand the role of women within the entertainment industry. With this new clarification of the award's identity, Women In Film is continuing the tradition of celebrating those who, through their success, are creating increased opportunities for the advancement of women working throughout the screen industries: in front of *and* behind the camera.

The **Women In Film Members' Choice Award** is a new opportunity for WIF LA members at all levels to participate in the recognition of a singular talented woman making her mark on the entertainment landscape. As a response to the oversight of female directors in almost every major awards show earlier in the season, this award's inaugural focus is women directors whose narrative features had a U.S. theatrical release in 2018.

About the Sponsors

Max Mara, founded in 1951 by the late visionary Achille Maramotti, epitomizes Italian luxury and style. A contemporary collection of ready-to-wear and accessories for the confident woman, Max Mara is the premier offering within the Max Mara Fashion Group consisting of sophisticated silhouettes and couture details achieved through masterful design. Recognized for its timeless sensibility and constructed from the most luxurious fabrics, Max Mara is revered for the classification of the coat, sharp suiting and elegant accessories. Max Mara is available in 2,600 locations in more than 100 countries worldwide. The Max Mara Fashion Group counts nine different brands under its ownership. The company remains privately held and managed by the Maramotti family.

Delta Air Lines serves more than 180 million customers each year. In 2018, Delta was named to Fortune's top 50 Most Admired Companies in addition to being named the most admired airline for the seventh time in eight years. With an industry-leading [global network](#), Delta and the [Delta Connection](#) carriers offer service to 312 destinations in 55 countries on six continents. Including its worldwide alliance partners, Delta offers customers more than 15,000 daily flights. Delta has invested billions of dollars in airport facilities, global products and services, and technology to enhance the customer experience in the air and on the ground. Additional information is available on the [Delta News Hub](#) and delta.com.

Lexus' passion for brave design, imaginative technology, and exhilarating performance enables the luxury lifestyle brand to create amazing experiences for its customers. Lexus began its journey in 1989 with two luxury

sedans and a commitment to pursue perfection. Since then, Lexus has developed its lineup to meet the needs of global luxury customers in more than 90 countries. In the United States, Lexus vehicles are sold through 241 dealers offering a full lineup of luxury vehicles. With six models incorporating Lexus Hybrid Drive, Lexus is the luxury hybrid leader. Lexus also offers eight F SPORT models and two F performance models. Lexus is committed to being a visionary brand that anticipates the future for luxury customers.

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