



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WIF ANNOUNCES 2021 HONOREES:
HANNAH EINBINDER, SIÂN HEDER, ASHLEY LEVINSON,
MARLEE MATLIN, JEAN SMART, AND ZENDAYA**

**WIF Honors Celebrating Trailblazers of the New Normal
Held October 6 at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles**

LOS ANGELES, California; September 14, 2021 – WIF (Women In Film, Los Angeles) announced today the honorees for the **2021 WIF Honors** that will be held on **Wednesday, October 6** at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles. Formerly named the Crystal + Lucy Awards®, the annual benefit supports WIF’s educational and philanthropic programs and its advocacy for gender parity for women throughout the industry. This is the first time the organization has been able to hold its fundraising celebration since 2019, due to the pandemic.

This year’s WIF Honors will celebrate the women who are transforming the industry for the better, with innovative reimaginings of how the workplace can be set up for women to support women with compassion, care, and a renewed commitment to equity across intersectional identities. The iconic **Crystal Award** will be presented to the following pairs of collaborators:

- **MARLEE MATLIN and SIÂN HEDER**
- **JEAN SMART and HANNAH EINBINDER**
- **ZENDAYA and ASHLEY LEVINSON**

The WIF Honors Committee, chaired by **Esther Chang**, is comprised of **Jamila Hunter, Michelle Lee, Monica Levinson, Talitha Watkins, and Lauren Williams**. Chang stated, “We are thrilled to honor a handful of the many women in our industry who have taken on the unparalleled challenges of our time and created transformative and lasting impact and opportunity for the better, together.”

“We are honoring these pairs of women with the Crystal Award to reflect the collective effort it takes to transform this industry into one that rewards equality and succeeds as it becomes

more inclusive. Even in the most difficult of times, these women have taken steps forward towards a more ideal future,” says Kirsten Schaffer, WIF Executive Director.

The WIF Honors are supported by sponsor **Max Mara** for the 18th year, alongside Visionary Partners **ShivHans Pictures** and **Lexus** and Major Partners **Google** and **STARZ**. The event is designed and produced by Carleen Cappelletti of Anchor Street Collective.

About The Honorees (Headshots Available [HERE](#))

Marlee Matlin and Siân Heder / Crystal Award

Marlee Matlin received worldwide critical acclaim for her motion picture debut in *Children of a Lesser God*, a performance the film community chose to recognize with its highest honor—the Academy Award for Best Actress. Matlin’s television roles include *The L Word*, *The West Wing*, and *Switched at Birth*, and Emmy-nominated work on *The Practice*, *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Seinfeld*, and *Picket Fences*. Matlin was an executive producer of the Academy Award-nominated short film *Feeling Through*, the first film to feature a DeafBlind actor in a leading role. Her *New York Times* best-selling autobiography *I’ll Scream Later* was published in 2009, and she has published a novel for children titled *Deaf Child Crossing*. Matlin has been instrumental in aiding the Deaf and hard of hearing communities, such as getting Academy screeners to have closed captions, helping get legislation passed that mandated ASL interpreters be present at all COVID-19 press conferences, and organizing a PSA that aided the 20 million Deaf and hard of hearing Americans in accessing resources on how to vote in the past elections.

Siân Heder is a writer, director, and showrunner. Her most recent work includes directing Apple Original Film *CODA* and executive producing and co-showrunning *Little America* for Apple TV+. She wrote and produced for three seasons on the acclaimed Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*, receiving multiple WGA nominations for her work. Her other television credits include *Men of a Certain Age*, which earned her a Peabody Award. She has directed episodes of Netflix’s *GLOW* and *Orange Is the New Black*, Hulu’s *The Path*, and *Little America*. Her first short film, *Mother*, was awarded the Cinéfondation Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival. Her debut feature film, *Tallulah*, starring Elliot Page and Allison Janney, premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and was released as a Netflix original.

Jean Smart and Hannah Einbinder / Crystal Award

Winner of three Emmys and an additional eight nominations, as well as a Tony® nomination, Grammy® nomination, and two Critics’ Choice Awards wins, **Jean Smart** recently received rave reviews and 2021 Emmy nominations for her performances in the HBO Max comedy *Hacks*, and the HBO limited series *Mare of Easttown*. In 2019, Smart received accolades for her role in the HBO series *Watchmen*, based on the original groundbreaking graphic novel of the same name. She won the 2020 Critics Choice Award and received a 2020 Emmy nomination for Supporting

Actress in a Drama for this performance. Some additional recent credits include *Superintelligence*, Dan Fogelman's *Life, Itself*, as well as Paul Feig's *A Simple Favor*. She also appeared in the Bravo series *Dirty John*, Noah Hawley's FX series *Legion*, and the second season of Hawley's acclaimed series *Fargo* on FX, for which she won a Critics' Choice Award and was nominated for an Emmy Award.

Hannah Einbinder has quickly established herself as a highly sought-after actress and comedian. She can currently be seen starring in the HBO Max comedy series *Hacks*, for which she has earned a few nominations including Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series at the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards, Best Supporting Actress in a Streaming Series, Comedy at the HCA TV Awards, and Comedy Supporting Actress at the GoldDerby TV Awards. Though the series marks Einbinder's first major television role, she is no stranger to the comedy world. She was named one of *Variety's* "10 Comics to Watch for 2021," a 2019 New Face of Comedy at Montreal's prestigious Just For Laughs comedy festival, and was also highlighted as one of *Vulture's* "Comics to Watch of 2019," cementing herself as one of the wittiest emerging talents in the industry.

Zendaya and Ashley Levinson / Crystal Award

Emmy Award winning actor **Zendaya** launched her career as an actress on Disney Channel starring in the hit series *Shake It Up*, as well as *K.C. Undercover*, which she also helped produce. Zendaya moved to the big screen in 2017 where she played MJ in Marvel's newest *Spider-Man* trilogy, with the final film *Spider-Man: No Way Home* premiering in December 2021. Other credits include *The Greatest Showman* and animated film *Smallfoot*. Most recently, she can also be seen as titular character Marie in Netflix's *Malcolm & Marie*, a film she helped create and produce in the beginning of the pandemic. Zendaya also starred in HBO and A24's *Euphoria*, for which she won an Emmy Award for her performance as Rue, making Zendaya the youngest woman to win an Emmy for lead drama actress. Zendaya can next be seen in Warner Bros.' highly anticipated film *Dune*, premiering October 2021, and season two of *Euphoria*, which is currently in production.

Ashley Levinson is a film producer and a co-founder of Little Lamb Productions. Little Lamb is best known for the HBO series *Euphoria*, starring Zendaya, who received the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama for her role. Levinson also produced the feature *Pieces of a Woman* (2021), which starred Vanessa Kirby, who garnered an Academy Award nomination for her performance. In the middle of 2020, Little Lamb produced *Malcolm & Marie* (2021). The film was one of the first to have been written, shot safely, and released within the pandemic and portions of the film's proceeds from its record-breaking sale to Netflix were donated to Feeding America. In 2020, Levinson was featured in *Variety's* 10 Producers to Watch List and *The Hollywood Reporter's* Producer Roundtable in 2021. She served as an Executive Producer on *Bombshell* (2019), *Those Who Wish Me Dead* (2021), and Co-Executive Producer on *Queen & Slim* (2019), and A24's *The Green Knight* (2020). Her other producing credits include several projects with HBO, including *The Idol* starring The Weeknd, *Irma Vep* starring Alicia Vikander, and

Ohio, an adaptation of the book by Stephen Markley. Most recently, Levinson is a producer on *892*, a veteran drama feature starring John Boyega.

About WIF and the Awards

Founded in 1973 as Women In Film, Los Angeles, WIF advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries, to achieve parity and transform culture. We support women and people of marginalized genders in front of and behind the camera and across all levels of experience. We work to change culture through our distinguished pipeline programs; we advocate for gender parity through research, education, and media campaigns; and we build a community centered around these goals. Membership is open to all screen industry professionals, and more information can be found on our website: wif.org. Follow WIF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

Since 1977, WIF has annually honored outstanding women in the entertainment industry who have broken ground and excelled in their chosen fields. Outstanding individuals who have been honored in past WIF awards programs include Julie Andrews, Maya Angelou, Angela Bassett, Cate Blanchett, Carol Burnett, Glenn Close, Geena Davis, Viola Davis, Ava DuVernay, Nora Ephron, Audrey Hepburn, Jodie Foster, Nicole Kidman, Brie Larson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Amy Poehler, Issa Rae, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Cicely Tyson, Kerry Washington, and more iconic women.

The **Crystal Award** has, since 1977, honored outstanding individuals and groups of women who, through their endurance and the excellence of their work, have helped to expand the role of women within the entertainment industry. In 2019, the iconic award was reenvisioned to celebrate the advocacy of 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.

Marlee Matlin and **Sian Heder** are honored for setting a new precedent for representation and accessibility in front of and behind the camera on their film *CODA*. **Jean Smart** and **Hannah Einbinder** are honored for performances that bring to light issues WIF has been working on for decades: sexism, ageism, and harassment in the entertainment industry. **Zendaya** and her producing partner **Ashley Levinson** are honored for disrupting the imbalanced, traditional systems of compensation and ownership with the shared equity model of their film *Malcolm & Marie*.

###

Media Contacts

For additional information concerning the event, please contact Caroline Stegner at Rogers & Cowan PMK at caroline.stegner@rogersandcowanpmk.com. For information concerning WIF, contact Catherine Olim at Rogers & Cowan / PMK at catherine.olim@rogersandcowanpmk.com.