



WIF CELEBRATED THE 2021 WIF HONORS
CELEBRATING TRAILBLAZERS OF THE NEW NORMAL

JANE FONDA ACCEPTED INAUGURAL JANE FONDA HUMANITARIAN AWARD

**MARLEE MATLIN AND SIÂN HEDER, JEAN SMART AND HANNAH EINBINDER, AND
ZENDAYA AND ASHLEY LEVINSON RECEIVED CRYSTAL AWARDS**

**ZAZIE BEETZ ACCEPTED WIF MAX MARA
FACE OF THE FUTURE AWARD® IN VIDEO FROM MILAN FASHION WEEK**

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Los Angeles, CA (October 7, 2021) – Last night, **WIF** (Women In Film, Los Angeles) celebrated outstanding women who are transforming the entertainment industry for the better with the **2021 WIF Honors: Trailblazers of the New Normal** supported by sponsor **Max Mara** for the 18th year, alongside Visionary Partners **ShivHans Pictures** and **Lexus**. The annual benefit supports WIF’s educational and philanthropic programs and its advocacy for gender parity for women throughout the industry. The evening, hosted by comedian **Jenny Yang**, was held at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles.

This year’s WIF Honors acknowledged the transformative work that it takes to make the entertainment industry more inclusive and equitable, celebrating the collective efforts that this year’s honorees have made to improve our world and our business. The 2021 WIF Honors: Trailblazers of the New Normal honored **Jane Fonda** with the inaugural **Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award** presented to her by **RuPaul Charles**; **Marlee Matlin** and **Siân Heder** with the **Crystal Award** presented to them by **Lauren Ridloff**; **Jean Smart** and **Hannah Einbinder** with the **Crystal Award** presented to them by **Carl Clemons-Hopkins**; and **Zendaya** and **Ashley Levinson** with the **Crystal Award** presented to them by **John David Washington**. **Zazie Beetz** was honored with the **WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award®** at an exclusive Max Mara dinner and attended the Max Mara Spring/Summer 2022 Fashion Show in Milan, Italy on September 23, 2021.

During the Gala, WIF Chief Executive Officer, **Kirsten Schaffer** introduced a video by Max Mara featuring **Zazie Beetz** being honored with the **WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award®** at an exclusive Max Mara dinner in Milan, Italy on September 23, 2021.

Gala attendees included **Amy Baer** (WIF Board President), **Kirsten Schaffer** (WIF CEO), **Lake Bell** (Director, Writer & Actor), **Shivani Rawat** (Producer, *The Ice Road*), and more.

Event Highlights:

- During her opening speech, host **Jenny Yang** said, “It is 2021. To be a woman is to have a story worth telling. To be a woman is to have a voice worth hearing. We are worthy, we are powerful.”
- **Zendaya** when accepting the *Crystal Award* said, “When you open the door, your job is to open the door and jam it open for other people to come in. I encourage everyone in any kind of position of power to give people opportunities, to show that they can do what they do. Give them the time to shine, give them a moment because that’s all it really takes—and allow them to network and meet other people and be in spaces and rooms and get paid.”
- **Marlee Matlin** when accepting the *Crystal Award* said, “Authenticity is so important these days. It’s time for it to happen now, now, now.”
- **Jean Smart** when accepting the *Crystal Award* said, “I do think that women in positions of power are the healthier ones. They don’t feel like they have as much to prove. It’s not as much about their ego as it is about just wanting to do what they love.” Accepting alongside Smart, **Hannah Einbinder** said, “It’s incredible because we got so lucky to be working with women who are as egoless as they are talented.”
- **Jane Fonda** when accepting the inaugural *Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award* said, “This award I think is a torch that will be handed off year after year to new generations of activists who will I hope do a better job than my generation did.”
- On stage **Kirsten Schaffer**, WIF CEO said, “Imagine an entertainment industry where the threshold is simply treating people well. From our daily interactions to our company policies, it is possible to have compassion and excellence.”
- **Jean Smart, Marlee Matlin, Hannah Einbinder, Siân Heder, and Jenny Yang** arrived dressed in **Max Mara**.
- **Lexus** showcased the 2021 LC 500 Convertible and an interactive photo booth for guests to enjoy.

The WIF Honors Committee, chaired by **Esther Chang**, is comprised of **Jamila Hunter, Michelle Lee, Monica Levinson, Talitha Watkins, and Lauren Williams**. The WIF Honors were supported by sponsor **Max Mara** for the 18th year, alongside Visionary Partners **ShivHans Pictures** and **Lexus** and Major Partners **Google, Apple TV+, and STARZ**. The event was designed and produced by Carleen Cappelletti of Anchor Street Collective.

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, Jodie Foster, Audrey Hepburn, Nicole Kidman, Brie Larson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Amy Poehler, Issa Rae, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Cicely Tyson, Kerry Washington, and more iconic women.

The **Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award** honors women who have used their prominent entertainment industry profiles to effect radical change and shed light on issues using their powerful voices. WIF has given a humanitarian award named for lawyer and civil rights advocate Norma Zarky since 1979. This year we honor **Jane Fonda** by bestowing her name on the award, in recognition of her fearlessness in speaking out and inspiring generations of activists.

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 **Siân Heder** were 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** were honored for performances on *Hacks* that bring to light issues WIF has been addressing for decades: sexism, ageism, and harassment in the entertainment industry. **Zendaya** and **Ashley Levinson** were honored for disrupting the imbalanced, traditional systems of compensation and ownership with the shared equity model of their film *Malcolm & Marie*.

Each year, Max Mara presents the **WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award®** 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. **Zazie Beetz** was honored for these qualities in addition to her talent and commitment to climate activism.

About the Sponsors

MAX MARA founded in 1951 by the late visionary Achille Maramotti, is one of the highest expressions of Italian luxury and style. A contemporary collection of ready-to-wear and accessories for today's powerful women. Recognized for its timeless designs and its luxurious fabrics, Max mara is revered for the classification of the absolute coat, sharp suiting, and modern accessories. Max Mara is distributed in 2,500 locations in more than 100 countries worldwide. The Max Mara Fashion Group counts nine different brands. The company remains privately held and managed by the Maramotti family.

ShivHans Pictures, founded by producer Shivani Rawat, is a production and finance company creating unique and compelling feature films outside the Hollywood studio model. The company strives to streamline the financing process in an effort to fully support the visions of independent filmmakers while collaborating with top-tier talent. Recent ShivHans Pictures projects include Netflix's *The Ice Road*, directed by Jonathan Hensleigh and starring Liam Neeson and Laurence Fishburne, and produced and co-financed alongside CODE Entertainment; RIJE Films' *The Water Man*, starring and featuring the directorial debut of David Oyelowo; Aaron Sorkin's Academy Award-nominated *The Trial of the Chicago 7*, distributed by Netflix and for which Shivani Rawat served as an Executive Producer; and Lionsgate's *Wander Darkly*, written and directed by Tara Miele and starring Sienna Miller and Diego Luna. Previous films from ShivHans Pictures include *Danny Collins*, the Academy Award-nominated *Trumbo*, the Academy Award-nominated *Captain Fantastic*, and *Beirut*, all distributed by Bleecker Street, and *The Polka King*, released by Netflix worldwide. In 2019, ShivHans Pictures expanded into distribution with Bleecker Street, releasing films including *Hotel Mumbai* and *Brian Banks*, which ShivHans also produced. Upcoming co-distribution projects include Academy Award winner Guy Nattiv's biographical film *Golda*, starring Helen Mirren. For information about ShivHans Pictures and its upcoming slate of films, please visit www.ShivHans.com and follow the company on Instagram/Facebook/Twitter @ShivHansPics.

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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