



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WIF ANNOUNCES 2022 HONOREES:
QUINTA BRUNSON, MICHAELA COEL, GINA PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD,
KATIE SILBERMAN, AND OLIVIA WILDE;
Presenters to include VIOLA DAVIS, JANE FONDA, and SHERYL LEE RALPH**

**WIF Honors Celebrating Women “Forging Forward” in Entertainment
Held October 27 at The Beverly Hilton**

LOS ANGELES, California; September 14, 2022 – WIF (Women In Film, Los Angeles) announced today the honorees for the **2022 WIF Honors** that will be held on **Thursday, October 27** at The Beverly Hilton. The annual benefit supports WIF’s educational and philanthropic programs and its advocacy for gender parity throughout the industry. This year’s WIF Honors will celebrate the women who are forging forward: laying the foundation to transform Hollywood for the better, with their ingenuity, vision, and persistence. To find out more about the event, visit www.wif.org/honors.

The iconic **Crystal Award for Advocacy** will be presented to:

- **QUINTA BRUNSON** for *“Abbott Elementary”* (in conversation with **SHERYL LEE RALPH**)
- **GINA PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD** for *“The Woman King”* (presented by **VIOLA DAVIS**)
- **KATIE SILBERMAN** and **OLIVIA WILDE** in conversation about *“Don’t Worry Darling”*

The **Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award** will be presented by **JANE FONDA** to:

- **MICHAELA COEL**

The Crystal Award for Advocacy honors outstanding individuals and groups of women who are creating increased opportunities for the advancement of women working throughout the screen industries. **Quinta Brunson** is a self-made creator who seamlessly transitioned from viral videos to groundbreaking Emmy Award winner for her series “Abbott Elementary,” and is honored for shining a light on the essential and often overlooked work of public school teachers. **Gina Prince-Bythewood** is honored for championing women-centered stories and creating inclusive

and representative sets, including most recently on her feature film “The Woman King.” **Katie Silberman** and **Olivia Wilde** are honored for telling stories featuring strong, unique female perspectives, such as in this year’s film “Don’t Worry Darling.”

Last year, WIF debuted the **Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award**, named for its inaugural recipient, **Jane Fonda**, and awarded to someone who is a fearless advocate through their work, both on and off camera. Fonda selected this year’s awardee, **Michaela Coel**, and will present her with the award. **Viola Davis** and **Sheryl Lee Ralph** are also among this year’s award presenters.

The WIF Honors Committee, co-chaired by Monica Levinson and Talitha Watkins, is comprised of Esther Chang, Michelle Lee, and Ida Ziniti. Levinson and Watkins stated, “The storytellers in this year’s class of WIF honorees are beacons for the kind of creative talent and exceptional leadership that makes a real impact on our industry. Each of them has impressed us not only with their work, but with the change they are effecting behind the scenes.”

“In a year where the impact of regressive trends is being felt by entertainment industry workers and people throughout our nation, WIF is honoring women who embody the tenacity it takes to forge forward—in our careers, as well as in our activism and entrepreneurship. As WIF gears up to celebrate our 50th anniversary next year, we are keenly focused on not letting the progress that we’ve made over the past five decades slip away,” said Kirsten Schaffer, WIF Chief Executive Officer.

The WIF Honors are supported by year-round Presenting Sponsor **Max Mara** for the 19th year, alongside Visionary Partners **ShivHans Pictures** and **Lexus** and Major Partner **Starz**. The event is designed and produced by Carleen Cappelletti of Anchor Street Collective.

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

Quinta Brunson / Crystal Award for Advocacy

Named one of *Time* 100’s Most Influential People in 2022, *Forbes*’ 30 Under 30 in Hollywood & Entertainment, *The Hollywood Reporter*’s Next Gen Rising Young Stars, and dubbed “the new queen of sitcoms” by *New York Magazine*, Emmy award-winning creator, actor, writer, producer, and bestselling author **Quinta Brunson** has quickly made a name for herself as one of today’s most powerful forces within the entertainment industry. Brunson recently made history as the first Black woman to receive three comedy Emmy nominations for her smash-hit, ABC series “Abbott Elementary,” which she stars in and serves as creator/showrunner, head writer, and executive producer. Season one debuted to critical acclaim and rave reviews as a cultural juggernaut; the magic of “Abbott Elementary” is not just in the clever writing and stellar comedic performances from the cast, but in Brunson’s ability to shine the light on big issues that plague public education in a real and relatable, yet humorous, way, while encouraging audiences that we can do better. In summer 2022, the show earned a total of seven Emmy nominations and

three wins from the Television Academy for its freshman season. "Abbott Elementary" will debut season two on September 21, 2022, on ABC. As an author, Brunson released her bestselling, debut novel "She Memes Well" (HMH Books) to rave reviews in June 2021. Brunson's original content has continuously gone viral, reaching hundreds of millions of people, and her followers across socials have hit 2.5 million and counting. Brunson also starred in HBO's award-nominated sketch comedy series "A Black Lady Sketch Show," and has lent her voice to a plethora of projects, including Adult Swim's "Lazor Wulf" (where she is also a staff writer) and Netflix's "Big Mouth."

Michaela Coel / Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award

Emmy and BAFTA award-winning actress, playwright, screenwriter, director, showrunner, poet and author, **Michaela Coel** is one of the UK's leading stars. Having won numerous awards for her hit television series "I May Destroy You," Coel is the first Black woman to win an Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Limited or Anthology series and featured in *Time* Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020. "I May Destroy You" was met with across-the-board praise from both critics and audiences alike and won a host of prestigious awards. This year will see Coel star in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," and she recently finished shooting the series "Mr. & Mrs. Smith." Her first book, "Misfits: A Personal Manifesto," a passionate and inspired declaration against fitting in, is based on the prestigious MacTaggart lecture she gave in 2018 at the Edinburgh TV Festival, where she was the first Black woman to take the lectern. Coel first came to prominence for her debut series "Chewing Gum," based on her sensational play, "Chewing Gum Dreams." Her other previous screen roles include "Been So Long," "Black Earth Rising," "Black Mirror," and "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," among others. Among Coel's accolades are BAFTA Television Awards, Royal Television Society Awards, the *Forbes* "30 under 30" list, and being named one of the European Shooting Stars at the Berlinale Film Festival.

Gina Prince-Bythewood / Crystal Award for Advocacy

Award-winning director/writer/producer **Gina Prince-Bythewood** is one of the most versatile storytellers working in film and television. Known for her authentic character-driven work, Prince-Bythewood has directed and written such influential feature films as "Love & Basketball," "The Secret Life of Bees," and "Beyond The Lights." Her next directorial feature film is the epic "The Woman King," which opens in theaters on September 16. Inspired by true events, the film stars Viola Davis and tells the remarkable story of the Agojie, the all-female unit of warriors who protected the African Kingdom of Dahomey in the 1800s. Her most recent feature film was directing the critically-acclaimed action drama blockbuster "The Old Guard," which is among the Top 10 most popular Netflix films of all time with Prince-Bythewood becoming the first Black female director on the list. For television, she most recently directed the first episode and served as an Executive Producer of the limited series "Women of the Movement," based on the true story of Mamie Till-Mobley who devoted her life to seeking justice for her son Emmett. Prince-Bythewood's next television project will be "Genius: MLK/X," which she and her husband Reggie Rock Bythewood, will serve as Executive Producers under their production company Undisputed Cinema. Other recent credits for Prince-Bythewood include the special event series, "Shots Fired," on which she and Rock Bythewood served as Series Co-Creators and Executive

Producers. As a longtime advocate for equal representation in film and television on-screen and behind-the-scenes, Prince-Bythewood has championed many emerging writers and directors as well as funding a scholarship for African American students in the film program at UCLA, her alma mater.

Katie Silberman and Olivia Wilde / Crystal Award for Advocacy

Katie Silberman is an American screenwriter and producer. She most recently wrote and produced "Don't Worry Darling," directed by Olivia Wilde. In 2019 she co-wrote and produced "Booksmart," the 2019 hit coming-of-age film directed by Olivia Wilde and starring Beanie Feldstein and Kaitlyn Dever. The film received WGA and BAFTA award nominations for Best Original Screenplay, appeared on many "Best Films of the Year" lists, and garnered several year-end awards from film critics groups and earned Silberman WGA and BAFTA award nominations for Best Original Screenplay. Silberman also wrote Netflix's 2018 romantic comedy "Set It Up" and New Line's "Isn't It Romantic."

Director, actress, producer, and activist **Olivia Wilde's** new film "Don't Worry Darling" is one of the most anticipated titles of the year. Her 2019 award-winning directorial debut "Booksmart" won Wilde the Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature. Recently, Wilde directed the short film "Wake Up," and produced and starred in the films "A Vigilante" and "Meadowland." Additional past credits include the Oscar-winning drama "Her," the Golden Globe-nominated "Rush," and "Drinking Buddies," which she also executive produced. In 2017, Wilde made her Broadway debut in "1984," and on television, she previously starred in "Vinyl" and "House." She has served as executive producer on documentary shorts "Fear Us Women" and the Academy Award-nominated "Body Team 12." She also directed music videos for Red Hot Chili Peppers and Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. Wilde co-founded the philanthropic company Conscious Commerce, with the mission to create a guide for conscious living by promoting the causes, brands, people and lifestyles that are forging a new paragon of living. Wilde was recently honored by Save the Children with their Advocate Award in recognition of her galvanizing support for frontline aids helping save the lives of thousands of mothers and children through the 1 Million Community Health Workers Campaign. Additionally, the organization named Wilde as an artist ambassador focusing on maternal, newborn, and child survival. She is also a board member of Artists for Peace and Justice and the ACLU of Southern California.

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 Lucille Ball, Glenn Close, Viola Davis, Ava DuVernay, Nora Ephron, Jane Fonda, Audrey Hepburn, Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Lopez, Marlee Matlin, Mira Nair, Shonda Rhimes, Meryl Streep, Zendaya, and many 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.

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.

About Max Mara

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.

About ShivHans Pictures

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 Bleeker Street, and "The Polka King," released by Netflix worldwide. In 2019, ShivHans Pictures expanded into distribution with Bleeker 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.

About Lexus

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.

About Starz

[STARZ](#), a Lionsgate company, is a leading global media streaming platform committed to delivering premium content that amplifies narratives by, about and for women and underrepresented audiences. STARZ is home to the highly-rated and first-of-its-kind STARZ app that offers the ability to stream or download STARZ premium content, as well as the flagship domestic STARZ® service, including STARZ ENCORE, 17 premium pay TV channels, and the associated on-demand and online services. In 2018, STARZ launched its STARZPLAY international premium streaming platform to provide subscribers access to the "best of global SVOD." STARZPLAY, coupled with its STARZPLAY ARABIA joint venture, has expanded its global footprint into more than 60 countries throughout Europe and Latin America along with Canada, Japan, India and Indonesia. STARZ and STARZPLAY are available across digital OTT platforms and multichannel video distributors, including cable operators, satellite television providers, and telecommunications companies around the world. In February 2021, STARZ launched [#TakeTheLead](#), a multi-faceted and innovative inclusion initiative expanding its existing efforts to improve representation on screen, behind the camera and throughout the company.

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