WIF TO HONOR HANNAH WADDINGHAM WITH THE CRYSTAL AWARD FOR ADVOCACY IN TV

EMMY ROSSUM JOINS THE CELEBRATION TO PRESENT BETH DE ARAÚJO & GEMMA CHAN WITH THE CRYSTAL AWARD FOR ADVOCACY IN FILM

WIF Honors will be held on November 5 at The Beverly Hilton, presented by Max Mara with additional support from Amazon MGM Studios, Apple TV, Delta Air Lines, Netflix, STARZ #TakeTheLead, and Warner Bros. Pictures

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LOS ANGELES, CA – October 19, 2026 – WIF (Women In Film) announced today that Emmy Award-winner **Hannah Waddingham** (*Apple TV's Ted Lasso*) will be honored at the 2026 WIF Honors with the Crystal Award for Advocacy in TV on Thursday, November 5, at The Beverly Hilton. The Crystal Award for Advocacy in TV recognizes individuals whose success has created greater opportunities for women in entertainment, both on and off-screen.

Waddingham joins a dynamic cohort of 2026 WIF Honorees, which includes:

- Vanguard Award: **Pamela Abdy** presented to her by **Nancy Meyers**
- WIF Max Mara Face of the Future® Award: **Adria Arjona** presented to her by **Maria Giulia Prezioso Maramotti**
- The Crystal Award for Advocacy in Film: **Gemma Chan** *(in absentia)* and **Beth de Araújo** for their collaboration on *Josephine* presented by **Emmy Rossum**
- The Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award: **Salma Hayek Pinault** presented to her by **Jane Fonda**

Waddingham is an Emmy Award-winning television, film, and theatre actress and singer. She has garnered Emmy, Critics Choice, and HCA Awards, as well as Golden Globe and SAG nominations for her role as 'Rebecca' on the Apple TV comedy *Ted Lasso*. Her recent film and television credits include *Ride or Die, The Woman in Cabin 10, Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning*, *Lilo & Stitch*, *Smurfs*, *The Fall Guy*, *Krapopolis*, *Sex Education*, and *Game of Thrones*. A celebrated West End star, she has received multiple Olivier Award nominations for her acclaimed performances across musical theater.

"Hannah Waddingham's career reflects the spirit of the Crystal Award for Advocacy in TV, and we're thrilled to be honoring her formidable achievements and impact," said **Kirsten Schaffer, CEO, WIF.** "In 'Ted Lasso,' Hannah's powerful portrayal of Rebecca Welton, a woman fighting to be taken seriously in the male-dominated world of professional sports, echoes the barriers

women still face in the entertainment industry. Off-screen, Hannah uses her powerful platform to advocate for gender equality."

Additionally, **Emmy Rossum** (*Hulu's Furious*) will join the program and present **Beth de Araújo** and **Gemma Chan** *(in absentia)* with the Crystal Award for Advocacy in Film for their collaboration on *Josephine,* the U.S. Grand Jury Prize-winning film out of Sundance.

An award-nominated actress, director, producer, and singer, Rossum's career spans film, television, and music. She is best known for her Golden Globe-nominated performance in *The Phantom of the Opera* and her acclaimed portrayal of Fiona Gallagher on Showtime's *Shameless*. Most recently, she stars in and executive produces Hulu's critically acclaimed crime thriller *FURIOUS* under her production company, Composition 8. Beyond acting, Rossum has directed episodes of *Shameless*, *Animal Kingdom*, and *Modern Love*.

Rossum joins **Nancy Meyers**, presenting the Vanguard Award; **Maria Giulia Prezioso Maramotti**, presenting the WIF Max Mara Face of the Future® Award; and **Jane Fonda**, presenting her namesake Humanitarian Award.

The 2026 WIF Honors will emphasize the power of expansive storytelling to ignite change, spark dialogue, drive economic growth, and reimagine what's possible when the people in front of and behind the camera truly reflect the world's population.

The benefit gala is co-chaired by **Victoria Alonso** and **Andrea Nelson Meigs**. Alongside the pair, the WIF Honors Committee is comprised of WIF Board of Directors President Syrinthia Studer and WIF Board of Directors members Tara Duncan, Ivette Rodriguez, Rachel Rusch, and Jurnee Smollett. WIF Honors is presented by Max Mara with additional support from *Amazon MGM Studios, Apple TV, Delta Air Lines, Netflix, STARZ #TakeTheLead, and Warner Bros. Pictures.*

The event is WIF's largest fundraiser of the year, directly funding the organization's advocacy, research, and career programs. Tickets and tables are on sale today at WIF.org/Honors.

Press Kit Available HERE
(Includes headshots and bios of honorees and presenters)

About WIF and the Awards
Founded in 1973 as Women in Film, WIF has championed gender equity in the screen industries for more than 50 years through strategic advocacy campaigns, career development programs, and industry-leading research. WIF drives meaningful change in the screen industries by building pathways for emerging talent across various disciplines, sustaining careers at every level, and dismantling systemic bias. The organization's initiatives have supported thousands of professionals across film, television, and streaming, creating lasting impact both in front of and behind the camera. Membership is open to everyone. Kirsten Schaffer is WIF's Chief Executive Officer and Syrinthia Studer is the President of the Board of Directors. Follow WIF on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, X, and YouTube. Learn more at WIF.org.

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, Halle Berry, Cate Blanchett, Glenn Close, Viola Davis, Ava DuVernay, Nora Ephron, Jane Fonda, Audrey Hepburn, Nicole Kidman,

Donna Langley, Jennifer Lopez, Marlee Matlin, Mira Nair, Shonda Rhimes, Meryl Streep, Zendaya, and many more iconic women. View the WIF Awards Retrospective here.

The Crystal Award for Advocacy celebrates 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. Established in 1977 to honor outstanding individuals who, through their endurance and the excellence of their work, have helped to expand the role of women within the entertainment industry.

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. Previously named the Norma Zarky Humanitarian Award, it was renamed for honoree Jane Fonda in 2021, in recognition of her fearlessness in speaking out and inspiring generations of activists. Jane Fonda presents this award each year at WIF Honors.

The WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award® is presented 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 Maude Apatow, Joey King, Yara Shahidi, Lili Reinhart, Zazie Beetz, Gemma Chan, Elizabeth Debicki, 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.

Vanguard Award is a new addition to WIF Honors, created to recognize a leader whose career embodies the qualities that move the entire industry forward — not just influence, but the courage to use it. It honors someone who has risen through the ranks by force of perseverance, who takes creative risks that pay off commercially and critically, and who treats the advancement of women in entertainment as central to leadership, not peripheral to it.

About Max Mara, Presenting Sponsor

Founded in 1951 by the late visionary Achille Maramotti, Max Mara 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 2,300 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 Amazon MGM Studios

Amazon MGM Studios is a leading entertainment company focused on the production and global distribution of film and television content. Original series premiere on Prime Video, which is available to watch on hundreds of compatible devices in more than 240 countries and territories worldwide. Original films are produced and acquired by the studio for theatrical release and exclusively for Prime Video. Amazon MGM Studios also produces content for MGM+, the premium pay television network.

About Delta Air Lines, Major Sponsor

Delta Air Lines connects people to more than 300 destinations across six continents, with 100,000 Delta people making those connections possible every day. But some of our greatest journeys start at home.

At Delta, we believe every story deserves the chance to be told. That's why we support Women in Film and the women shaping the future of screen storytelling. Through WIF's Film Finishing Fund, Delta helps provide a missing piece of the production: a plane ticket that can get a filmmaker to a festival, a shoot location or wherever she needs to go to get her film across the finish line and in front of an audience. Because when we have more stories from diverse voices, we have a fuller, truer picture of the world we all share.

That commitment carries through Delta's sponsorship of the 2026 WIF Honors, where we're proud to help fund the advocacy, research and career programs opening doors for the next generation of women in film.

About Netflix, Major Sponsor

Netflix is one of the world's leading entertainment services offering TV series, films, games and live programming across a wide variety of genres and languages. Members can play, pause and resume watching as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, and can change their plans at any time.

About STARZ, Major Sponsor

STARZ (NASDAQ: STRZ) is the leading premium entertainment destination for women and underrepresented audiences, and home to some of the most popular franchises and series on television. STARZ offers a robust programming mix for discerning adult audiences, including boundary-breaking originals and an expansive lineup of blockbuster movies, and is embodied by its brand positioning "We're All Adults Here." Complementary to any platform or service, STARZ is available across a wide range of digital OTT platforms and multichannel video distributors and is a bundling partner of choice. STARZ is powered by an industry-leading advanced technology, data analytics and digital infrastructure and the highly rated and first-of-its-kind STARZ app.

About Warner Bros. Pictures, Major Sponsor

For more than 100 years, Warner Bros. Pictures has been at the forefront of the motion picture industry and continues to be a leading creative force in theatrical filmmaking. Partnering with the world's most inspiring storytellers, the studio produces the broadest slate of films for worldwide theatrical release, creating extraordinary entertainment for audiences around the globe.

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