WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD PRESIDENT, PRODUCER AMY BAER

ALSO NEW BOARD MEMBERS ESTHER CHANG, BONNIE ESKENAZI, JAMILA HUNTER, GUADE PAEZ AND STASIA WASHINGTON

Los Angeles, CA, June 5, 2018….. Women In Film, Los Angeles today announced that Amy Baer has been elected the new Board President, beginning officially on June 15, 2018, following the organization’s major annual fundraiser on June 13, the Women In Film Crystal and Lucy Awards Gala. They also announced a new slate of Board Members and Officers. Outgoing President Cathy Schulman, will remain on the Board as well as take on the new role as Chair of an Advisory Council for the organization, which is currently being populated.

“Throughout my eight-year tenure as Board President, I’ve watched Women In Film grow into an influential thought leader operating in the intersection between gender and the screen industries. We are in a tipping point moment, where sustainable gender equality can be achieved, and I am thrilled to turn the reins over to my long-time colleague and collaborator, Amy Baer. Amy is a proven industry leader and entrepreneur whose unique experience spans major studios, independent financiers, and producing. I look forward to working with Amy, this extraordinary new group of Board members, and the staff at Women In Film to transform media culture behind the camera and on-screen.”

"I am honored by my fellow Board members who elected me to this position,” said Amy Baer. “It's a momentous time for women - both in our industry and in our culture - and I am excited to lead this organization as we continue to push for and shape the conversation around parity for women across the screen industries. Cathy has done an extraordinary job as WIF Board President; I hope that my tenure is as meaningful and successful as hers has been. She leaves tremendous shoes to fill, and we still have work to do."

“In the eight years that Cathy Schulman served as Board President, she was responsible for moving the organization deeper into advocacy work and bringing greater national and international media attention to the need for parity in the workplace, on screen and behind the camera,” said WIF Executive Director Kirsten Schaffer.

Under Schulman’s leadership Women In Film partnered with the Sundance Institute and USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, conducting research to better understand, and work to overcome the systemic barriers to success faced by women in the entertainment industry. That research led to ReFrame, a research based action plan to further gender parity in the media industry.

About Amy Baer

Amy Baer's experience in the entertainment Industry uniquely spans major studios, independent financiers, and producing. Collectively, the films she has supervised and/or produced have grossed nearly $2 billion in worldwide box office. Her first film as a producer was the 2013 hit LAST VEGAS (starring Michael Douglas, Robert DeNiro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline) which grossed $136MM worldwide. In 2012, Baer raised a 7 figure development fund and launched Gidden Media, a content incubation and production company. Its first film, MARY SHELLEY, starring Elle Fanning (THE BEGUILED) and directed by Haifaa Al Mansour (WADJDA), was released by IFC in May 2018. She is currently in post-
production on BRIAN BANKS, starring Aldis Hodge (UNDERGROUND), Greg Kinnear (LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE) and directed by Tom Shadyac (BRUCE ALMIGHTY) for release in late 2018. Before starting her own company, Baer served as President & CEO of CBS Films (2007-2011), launching the division for CBS Corp. Baer spent 17 years at Sony Pictures Entertainment, where she oversaw such hit films as 1997’s MY BEST FRIEND’S WEDDING, Oscar nominated ADAPTATION (2001), S.W.A.T. (2002), SOMETHING’S GOTTA GIVE (2003), and the 2006 holiday hit THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS, which earned Will Smith an Oscar nomination. She also developed the 2011 Oscar-nominated Sony hit MONEYBALL, starring Brad Pitt. She began her career at Creative Artists Agency in 1988 as an assistant to the late Jay Moloney. Baer graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University in 1988 with a B.A. in English literature. She is married to producer Matt Baer (UNBROKEN), and has two sons. In addition to Women in Film, she also serves on the board of the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Producers Guild of America.

About the New Members of the 2018 Board of Directors

Esther Chang
Esther Chang is a partner at WME and co-head of the agency’s talent department. She represents a diverse roster of leading talent such as Eric Bana, Priyanka Chopra, Daveed Diggs, Drake, Dave Franco, Naomie Harris, Riley Keough, Yifei Liu, Dylan Minnette, Elisabeth Moss, Bob Odenkirk, Keri Russell, Ty Sheridan, Dan Stevens and Letitia Wright. Chang began her career at the William Morris Agency, and was promoted to agent in September 2001. She is a graduate of Columbia University, where she majored in English literature and minored in Asian American studies. Chang resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two young children.

Bonnie Eskenazi
For the past 30 years, Bonnie Eskenazi has regularly handled some of Hollywood’s most high profile and landmark entertainment disputes for some of the industry’s leading performers, directors, writers, producers, rights holders, studios and talent agents. In litigation, she represents plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of litigation matters, primarily focusing on entertainment disputes over issues such as royalties and profit participations, copyright ownership, idea theft, contracts, defamation, invasion of privacy, merchandise and licensing, music distribution, and new technology. Throughout her career, Ms. Eskenazi, has spoken out on gender issues and the importance of supporting women in all aspects of the business world.
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Jamila Hunter
Jamila Hunter, Senior Vice President, ABC Comedy, is responsible for overseeing the development and production of all new network sitcoms. Before stepping into this role, Jamila was vice president of ABC Comedy where she worked on projects such as critically acclaimed “black-ish,” “Fresh Off the Boat,” “The Real O’Neals” and “Last Man Standing.” Prior to this post, she worked her way up the executive ranks through various development roles in Comedy, Alternative and Digital Programming at NBC, Bravo, OWN and 20th Century Fox Television. Jamila started her career with NBC’s Olympic Division after graduating from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Guade Paez
Guade Paez is Vice President & Head of Corporate Communications at Hulu, where she leads the team responsible for all external communications in support of Hulu’s corporate brand, strategy, products, technology, advertising sales and content acquisition. Ms. Paez joined Hulu in April 2016 from Fox
Broadcasting Company, where she served as Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications & Digital Publicity for the network. Prior to that, Ms. Paez served in senior communications roles at Yahoo!, where she oversaw strategic communications for the company’s search advertising business; television startup Veoh Networks and global public relations agency Burson-Marsteller.

**Stasia Washington**
Stasia Washington joined First Foundation Advisors in January 2013 with 25 years’ experience in finance. As a Wealth Manager, Stasia helps non-profits, individuals and families to design strategies and implement tactics to protect and grow their assets. Recognized throughout her career, Ms. Washington’s honors include the 2017, 2016 and 2015 First Foundation Circle of Excellence Award, and The Los Angeles NAACP Outstanding Leader of the Year Award, just to name a few. Ms. Washington earned a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Pepperdine University’s Graziadio School of Business and Management.

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**2018 Board of Directors**

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CATHY SCHULMAN, Outgoing President  
STASIA WASHINGTON, CFO  
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**About Women In Film**  
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 is a
non-profit organization that focuses on advocacy and education. Programs include: ReFrame, a partnership with Sundance Institute; the WIF/Blacklist Episodic and Feature labs; an annual Financing Intensive; a speaker & screening series; a production training program; mentoring, scholarships, The Film Finishing Fund, and the Legacy Series, preserving the history of women in entertainment. For more information, visit www.wif.org

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