

NYWIFT || New York Women in Film & Television

NEW YORK WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION HONORS EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

ACCLAIMED ACTOR AND COMEDIAN SASHEER ZAMATA TO LIVEN UP THE FESTIVITIES AS HOST; SEVERAL NOTABLE SURPRISE PARTICIPANTS ALSO SLATED TO BE ON HAND

MAKEUP, HAIR AND COSTUME DESIGN TEAMS OF NETFLIX'S *JESSICA JONES*
WILL RECEIVE THE *VARIETY* ENSEMBLE AWARD
~ 18TH ANNUAL *DESIGNING WOMEN* AWARDS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2017 ~

NEW YORK, NY – MAY 18, 2017 – New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT), which has supported and empowered women in the entertainment industry for nearly 40 years, is thrilled to celebrate the women behind the scenes at this year's **New York Women in Film & Television *Designing Women* Awards Gala on Tuesday, June 6, 2017**. The 18th annual event will honor the renowned makeup artists, hair stylists and costume designers that truly bring characters to life in film, television and digital media.

This unique showcase of remarkable achievements by women in the film, television and digital media industries, co-presented by *Variety*, is attended by actors, producers, directors, writers, fashion industry leaders and, of course, designers.

Saturday Night Live actor **Sasheer Zamata** will host the evening's festivities and actor **David Costabile** (*Billions*, *Suits*, *Breaking Bad*, *Lincoln*) will present the award to Costume Designer Melissa Toth. Additional presenters will be added to the program and announced over the coming weeks, including a special surprise celebrity guest.

The 2017 *Designing Women* honorees include three of the most talented women behind the scenes:

- **Makeup Artist Kyra Panchenko** (*Snatched*, *The Girl on the Train*, *Kill Bill*)
- **Hair Stylist Melissa Forney** (*Hidden Figures*, *Empire*, *Selma*)
- **Costume Designer Melissa Toth** (*Manchester by the Sea*, *The Visitor*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*)
- The smash-hit Netflix series ***Jessica Jones*** will receive *Variety's* Ensemble Award for its makeup, hair and costume design teams.

"Film and television would be nothing without the extraordinary women behind the scenes who bring our favorite characters to life," says Terry Lawler, Executive Director of New York Women in Film & Television. "It's essential that we applaud these remarkable artists with an evening to commemorate all of the outstanding women in this area of the industry. Our annual *Designing Women* event is always a lively celebration and a fantastic way to kick off the summer and support our hugely talented female colleagues."

Past *Designing Women* honorees have included designers and artists from much-heralded TV shows, including *Mad Men*, *The Good Wife*, *The Affair* and *Orange Is the New Black*, and from films such as *Midnight Cowboy*, *Titanic*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Moonrise Kingdom* and *Chicago* – just to name a few.

This year's event will take place at New York University School of Law, located at 40 Washington Square South, starting at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$75 for NYWIFT members and \$150 for non-members. Proceeds benefit the non-profit educational programs NYWIFT throughout the year. To purchase tickets, please visit www.nywift.org/design.

About New York Women in Film & Television

The preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York City, NYWIFT supports women calling the shots in film, television and digital media. NYWIFT energizes the careers of women in entertainment by illuminating their achievements, providing training and professional development activities, and advocating for equity. Membership includes more than 2,100 women and men working in all areas of the industry. NYWIFT is part of a network of 40 women in film organizations worldwide, representing more than 10,000 members. For further information about New York Women in Film & Television, please visit nywift.org and follow them on social media for additional event updates, news and photos.

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Press Contact

King + Company

Cynthia Inácio

Cynthia.Inacio@kingcompr.com

(212) 561-7476