



NEW YORK WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION (NYWIFT) TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY AT THE 39TH ANNUAL MUSE AWARDS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2018

ACTORS SARAH JESSICA PARKER AND ELLEN BURSTYN, NETFLIX VP LISA NISHIMURA, AND DIRECTOR TRICIA BROCK TO RECEIVE AWARDS, AND NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE TO HONOR OUTGOING NYWIFT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TERRY LAWLER

NEW YORK, NY–NOVEMBER 19, 2018–New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) is proud to present the **39th Annual Muse Awards gala luncheon on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at the New York Hilton Midtown hotel**, located at 1335 6th Ave. Actor and CBS Commentator **Nancy Giles** will emcee the afternoon's event, which celebrates women of outstanding vision and achievement both in front of and behind the camera in film, television and digital media.

The honorees for this year's Muse Awards are some of the most extraordinary women in the business: **Sarah Jessica Parker**, a New York City icon and one of the most well-known actors and producers of our time; **Lisa Nishimura**, Academy and Emmy Award winning Vice President of Original Documentary and Comedy Programming at Netflix; and **Ellen Burstyn**, is one of the few actresses with the Triple Crown of Acting after winning multiple Academy Awards, two Emmy Awards and a Tony Award.

The 13th Annual **Loreen Arbus Changemaker Award**, created with the generous support of NYWIFT member Loreen Arbus, is given to an individual, organization or corporation in the entertainment industry that has helped to create and bring about significant change to benefit and aid women; this year it will be presented to **Maysoon Zayid**, a comedian, writer and producer, as well as a fierce disability advocate. In its second year, the **Nancy Malone Directing Award** will be awarded to film and television director **Tricia Brock** (*The Walking Dead, 30 Rock, Younger, Mr. Robot*). The award is named for Nancy Malone, an Emmy Award-winning producer and director, one of the first female directors in television, and a founding member of Women in Film in Los Angeles who dedicated her life to women's advancement in TV, film and digital media.

NYWIFT is also proud to announce that **Terry Lawler, NYWIFT's Executive Director**, will be presented with this year's **Made in NY Award** from the **New York City Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment**. After a long and devoted membership, Lawler joined the staff as Executive Director in June 1997, at the start of NYWIFT's 20th anniversary year. Not only has Lawler guided the organization through massive organizational growth, she has also led NYWIFT through enormous change in the industry at large. She spearheaded its move to online communications and the inclusion of the "digital media" industry, alongside film and television, in the organization's programming and membership outreach. She also significantly enhanced membership diversification across occupations with more members represented in the below-the-line crafts, as well as age, race and ethnicity and, yes, gender. Moreover, she has revitalized NYWIFT's advocacy initiatives and strengthened relationships with important governmental, industry and media partners.

Established in 2006, the Made in NY Awards celebrate excellence in New York City's creative community and recognize the achievements of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the City's media and entertainment industries. Other recent honorees include Alysia Reiner, Michael K. Williams and Judith Light.

"I am thrilled to present Terry with the 'Made in NY' Award, which recognizes her steadfast commitment to supporting women in the City's creative community," said **Media and Entertainment Commissioner Julie Menin**. "The City is grateful for her more than two decades of leadership as Executive Director of New York Women in Film & Television, where she not only diversified membership across age, race and job description, but also spearheaded numerous innovative programs that provide women with more career, funding and mentoring opportunities to find success in the

creative fields. Supporting equity and inclusion is more critical than ever and Terry has been a leader in empowering and lifting up women's voices."

"I'm truly honored to be receiving the Made in NY Award at the Muse Awards this year," said **New York Women in Film & Television Executive Director Terry Lawler**. "After 21 years with NYWIFT, I couldn't imagine a better way to complete my hugely satisfying tenure as Executive Director. The progress we have made in helping to move women to the forefront of many entertainment mediums is something I am not only genuinely proud of, but so truly thankful for. I have loved every wonderful, challenging and rewarding moment of my stewardship. I will miss my colleagues dearly, but I know I leave the organization in marvelous and highly competent hands, and look forward to welcoming incoming Executive Director Cynthia Lopez as she takes the helm."

"Now in its 39th year, the Muse Awards continues NYWIFT's long tradition and dedication to applauding the work and achievements of women in our industry, said **New York Women in Film & Television Board President Simone Pero**. We are thrilled to honor this year's incredible roster of accomplished women, and also look forward to toasting our beloved Terry Lawler in gratitude for all she has done not only for individual members and for the organization as a whole but also for NYWIFT's mission of equality in our industry."

The *Muse Awards* is always a highly anticipated celebration at the height of the holiday season. Join leading executives from major studios, broadcast and cable networks, and media production facilities as they celebrate these influential women. Past recipients include some of the most respected women in the entertainment industry such as Meryl Streep, Claire Danes, Mary-Louise Parker, Anne Sweeney, Martha Stewart, Robin Wright, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Julianne Moore, Tina Fey, America Ferrera, Judith Light, Laura Dern, Julianna Margulies, Blythe Danner, Victoria Alonso, Gabourey Sidibe, Debi Mazar, Martha Plimpton, Cicely Tyson and Lucy Liu.

Tickets are \$165 for most New York Women in Film & Television members and \$350 for nonmembers. Corporate tables for \$3500 or sponsorships starting at \$5000 are also available. To purchase, please visit nywift.org/MUSE.

###

About the 2018 Muse Honorees

Sarah Jessica Parker, a New York City icon and one of the most well-known actors and producers of our time. Parker is known not only for her outstanding work on *Sex and the City*, but for countless other films and television shows such as *Failure to Launch*, *The Family Stone*, *Hocus Pocus*, *The First Wives Club*, *Did You Hear About the Morgans?*, *LA Story*, *Mars Attacks*, *Ed Wood* and *Divorce*. Since beginning her career on Broadway in *The Innocents* and *Annie*, Parker has won multiple Emmy Awards and Golden Globe Awards for her extraordinary portrayal as Carrie Bradshaw on *Sex and the City*. In addition to her work on-screen, Parker is a philanthropist in her community through her work with the New York City Ballet, UNICEF and Food Bank of New York, to name a few. In addition, she is an Honorary Chair for Book Club Central and an Honorary Lifetime Board Member of United for Libraries, where she shares her joy of reading while helping to raise awareness and encourage support for libraries across the country.

Lisa Nishimura, Academy and Emmy Award winning Vice President of Original Documentary and Comedy Programming at Netflix. An 11-year Netflix veteran, Nishimura oversees the company's original documentary and stand-up comedy initiatives. In 2017, she was named one of the 100 most powerful women in entertainment by *The Hollywood Reporter*. Under her leadership, Netflix has provided a global platform for critically acclaimed documentary work including *Making a Murderer*; *Wild Wild Country*; *Chef's Table*; *Icarus*; *What Happened, Miss Simone?*; *13th*; *White Helmets* and *Salt Fat Acid Heat*. In addition, her team has produced global stand-up comedy specials including Hannah Gadsby's *Nanette* and Ali Wong's *Baby Cobra* and *Hard Knock Wife* as well as work from the likes of Jerry Seinfeld, Dave Chappelle, and Amy Schumer, with forthcoming specials from Ellen DeGeneres and Chris Rock. The current slate of films including *Reversing Roe*, *Shirkers* and *Quincy*, showcases Netflix's commitment to female documentarians and compelling storytelling.

Ellen Burstyn, a highly decorated actress known for her work in a number of movies and television shows including *Requiem for a Dream*, *The Exorcist*, *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Political Animals*, *Resurrection*, *The Age of Adaline*, *House of Cards* and many others. She is one of the few actresses with the Triple Crown of Acting after winning multiple Academy Awards, two Emmy Awards and a Tony Award. In addition, she has won a Golden Globe and countless other awards for notable performances throughout her career. Burstyn was the first female president of the Actor's Equity Association in the early 1980s and has been co-president of The Actor's Studio for eighteen years.

Maysoon Zayid is a comedian, writer and producer, as well as a fierce disability advocate. She co-founded and co-produced the New York Arab American Comedy Festival and The Muslim Funny Fest. Zayid had the most viewed TED Talk of 2014. She has also appeared in a variety of documentaries and movies including *You Don't Mess with the Zohan* and *The Muslims are Coming!* She is an ambassador for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, a frequent news commentator and walked in New York Fashion Week. Zayid is currently developing a comedy series for ABC network titled *Can-Can*, which is based on her personal experiences.

Tricia Brock has directed episodes of some of the most popular television series, including *The Walking Dead*, *30 Rock*, *Younger*, *Mr. Robot*, *Ugly Betty*, *Veronica Mars* and *Orange is the New Black*—among many others. She has also directed multiple episodes of *Mozart in the Jungle*, which received *Variety's* Ensemble Award at the 2018 NYWIFT Designing Women Awards. She recently worked on *The Deuce*, *Into the Badlands* and Jordan Peele's new sci-fi comedy *Weird City*.

###

About New York Women in Film & Television

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) advocates for equality in the moving image industry and supports women in every stage of their careers. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive community of peers. NYWIFT brings together nearly 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 50 women in film chapters worldwide, representing more than 15,000 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.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nywift>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/nywift/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NYWIFT>

Tumblr: <http://nywift.tumblr.com/>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/nywift/>

Press Contact

King + Company

Cynthia Inácio

Cynthia.Inacio@kingcompr.com

(212) 561-7476