



THE 2024 WIF HONORS, THEMED *THE POWER OF THE COLLECTIVE*, HONORED ANNETTE BENING, MICHELLE BUTEAU, JOEY KING, ELLEN KURAS, DANIELLE SANCHEZ-WITZEL, KERRY WASHINGTON, AND KATE WINSLET

JANE FONDA PRESENTED BENING WITH THE JANE FONDA HUMANITARIAN AWARD

WIF Honors was Presented by Max Mara with Visionary Sponsor ShivHans Pictures, and additional support from Amazon MGM Studios, Lexus, M&M'S, Netflix, and STARZ #TakeTheLead

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LOS ANGELES, California; October 25, 2024 — On Thursday, October 24, 2024, WIF (formerly known as Women In Film, Los Angeles) celebrated the **2024 WIF Honors**, an annual benefit supporting WIF's educational and philanthropic programs, and its advocacy for gender parity in entertainment, at The Beverly Hilton.

Themed *The Power of the Collective*, the gala recognized industry leaders who demonstrate how strength in collaboration, inclusion, and uplifting stories can change culture for the better. The 2024 WIF Honors celebrated **Annette Bening** with the **Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award** presented by **Jane Fonda**; **Kate Winslet** and **Ellen Kuras** with the **Crystal Award for Advocacy in Film** presented by **Marion Cotillard**, in conversation with *The Hollywood Reporter* Contributing Editor, **Stacey Wilson Hunt**; **Michelle Buteau** and **Danielle Sanchez-Witzel** with the **Crystal Award for Advocacy in TV** presented by **Janelle James**, in conversation with **Danielle Young**; and **Kerry Washington** with the Entrepreneur in Entertainment Award presented by **Emayatzy Corinealdi**, in conversation with *Variety* Senior Entertainment Writer, **Angelique Jackson**. **Joey King** was honored with the **WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award®** presented to her by Max Mara Global Brand Ambassador **Maria Giulia Prezioso Maramotti**.

Actress and WIF Board of Directors member **Jurnee Smollett** (*We Grown Now*, *The Burial*, "The Order"), delivered the opening remarks. Additional notable attendees included **Quinta Brunson** (*Abbott Elementary*, 2022 WIF Honoree), **Amy Baer** (President, WIF), **Alexandra Hedison** (Director/Actress), **Annie Gonzalez** (*Flamin' Hot*), **Ari Graynor** (*Monsters*), **Christina Perri** (*Recording Artist*), **Dana Ledoux Miller** (Writer/Director, *Moana 2*), **Kirsten Schaffer** (CEO, WIF), **Lake Bell** (*Under the Lights*), **Lili Reinhart** (*Hal & Harper*, 2022 WIF Max Mara Face of the Future), **Nava Mau** (*Baby Reindeer*), **Jackie Tohn** (*Nobody Wants This*), **Jodi Long** (Actress, SAG-AFTRA LA Local President), **Monica Levinson** (Co-Chair, WIF Honors Committee), **Natasha Ofili** (Actress), **Rachael Harris** (*Mother of the Bride*), **Sherry Cola** (*Nobody Wants This*), **Sharon Lawrence** (*Walker*), **Storm Reid** (*Euphoria*, *The Last of Us*),



Talitha Watkins (Co-Chair, WIF Honors Committee), **Linda Yvette Chávez** (*Flamin' Hot*, 2023 WIF Honoree), and more.

Event Highlights:

- WIF Board President **Amy Baer** announced that Executive Vice President of the Board **Syrinthia Studer** will take the helm in 2025: “I’m now thrilled to pass the baton to an extraordinary woman, executive, and a friend, WIF’s next Board President: Syrinthia Studer. A 20-year industry veteran with a career spanning from marketing to development, and from film to digital platforms production in the U.S. and globally. Syrinthia is a bold and caring leader, and WIF has already benefited from her vast and diverse experience and extraordinary leadership skills as a Board member since 2018, and most recently, Executive Vice President of the WIF Executive Committee. She has a clear-eyed, ambitious, and exciting agenda for WIF in 2025 and beyond.”
- **Kirsten Schaffer**, WIF CEO took the stage to speak about the event’s impact and timeliness: “The days ahead, for business and for culture – and for our country - will be challenging. But the fact that we’ve come this far is proof that we’re up to the challenge.”
- **Kate Winslet** and **Ellen Kuras** (*Lee*), recipients of The Crystal Award for Advocacy in Film, discussed the power of inclusive opportunities and the lack thereof early on in their careers.
 - “This is why events like this are so important. Twenty, thirty years ago, when I was starting out, events like this didn’t exist. The idea that cheering on your friends, celebrating that person you stand shoulder to shoulder with and feeling proud of ourselves, large groups of women working together, it’s so significant.” - *Kate Winslet*
 - “I think people are recognizing and seeing women as a viable force, even if they’re mothers, and they need to work. So I think there is change happening but there is a lot of room for us to keep working forward in the film industry.” - *Ellen Kuras*
- The Crystal Award for Advocacy in TV: **Michelle Buteau** and **Danielle Sanchez-Witzel** (“Survival of the Thickest”)
 - When discussing how comedy has allowed her to professionally find herself, Michelle shared, “Comedy saved my life, comedy gave me a voice, it made me figure out how to ask for things that I want and make people laugh while they give them to me.”
 - When discussing her first job, and the mantra that she and her sisters have adopted through life, Danielle shared, “When the door opens, walk through. And when you walk through, be great. Don’t question why it opened.”
- **Kerry Washington**, Entrepreneur in Entertainment Award honoree, on her advice to women in the industry shared, “Find your crew. As a producer, it gives me so much joy that so often our actors or other crew members will come to me and say ‘I’ve never been on a set like this before, it’s so inclusive, I feel seen, I feel represented, I don’t feel alone. Truly find your crew.”



- The Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award honoree **Annette Bening** shared during her speech, “I so appreciate the theme of this evening, about celebrating our collective strength. Something that resonates with all of us here I’m sure, and anyone who has ever been involved in a production knows, all great change and all great growth comes from the merging of talent, skills, heart, minds, souls.”
- WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award honoree **Joey King** gave an emotional speech thanking her grandmother, mother, and sisters, sharing, “The women in my life are the only reason that I’m here today. And I couldn’t be named the WIF MaxMara Face of the Future without their leadership.”
- **Attendees wearing Max Mara included:** Joey King, Kerry Washington, Michelle Buteau, Ellen Kuras, Danielle Sanchez-Witzel, Emayatzy Corinealdi, Jane Fonda, Jurnee Smollett, Lake Bell, Lili Reinhart, Nava Mau, Storm Reid, Amy Baer, Ari Graynor, Janelle James, China Chow, Jessica Wang, Kirsten Schaffer, Monica Levinson, Syrinthia Studer, and Talitha Watkins.

The WIF Honors Committee, co-chaired by **Monica Levinson** and **Talitha Watkins**, is comprised of **Tara Duncan**, **Faith France**, and **Andrea Nelson Meigs**. WIF Honors is presented by **Max Mara** with Visionary Sponsor **ShivHans Pictures**, and additional support from **Amazon MGM Studios**, **Lexus**, **M&M’S**, **Netflix**, and **STARZ #TakeTheLead**. The event was designed and produced by Carleen Cappelletti of Anchor Street Collective.

About WIF and the Awards

Founded in 1973 as Women In Film, Los Angeles, WIF has been fighting for gender equity for more than 50 years. Its advocacy, career programs, and research efforts are a driving force for increasing gender representation in Hollywood. WIF works to dismantle gender bias in the screen industries by building the pipeline, sustaining careers, and advocating for change. Membership is open to all screen industry professionals and more information can be found on our website: WIF.org. WIF is led by Chief Executive Officer Kirsten Schaffer and Chair of the Board of Directors Amy Baer. Follow WIF on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [X](#), 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, 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 honors outstanding individuals and groups of women who are creating increased opportunities for the advancement of women working throughout the screen industries. 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 Entrepreneur in Entertainment Award honors a promising talent in the fields of film, television, and/or digital media, whose professional pursuits are resulting in progress for the next generation of talented women. Its recipient has demonstrated a foundation for her career consisting of accomplishments marrying creative achievements and business acumen.

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 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.

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 2,700 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, Visionary Sponsor

ShivHans Pictures, founded by producer Shivani Rawat, is a production and finance company creating unique and compelling feature films, television, and theater. Across their projects, ShivHans Pictures champions inclusive and engaging storytelling through collaborations with top-tier talent both on screen and behind the camera. Upcoming films include *The Assessment*, directed by Fleur Fortuné, starring Elizabeth Olsen, Alicia Vikander and Himesh Patel; *Love Me*, directed by Sam & Andy Zuchero, starring Kristen Stewart and Steven Yeun; and *The Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky*, directed by Jonathan Hensleigh, starring Liam Neeson. Additional films include the critically acclaimed *Hit Man*, *Winner*, Oscar-nominated documentary *To Kill A Tiger*, *The Ice Road*, *Wander Darkly*, Oscar-nominated *The Trial of the Chicago 7*, Oscar-nominated *Trumbo*, and Oscar-nominated *Captain Fantastic*, among others. ShivHans Pictures expanded into distribution with Bleecker Street on select projects, co-releasing films including *Golda*, *Hotel Mumbai*, and *Brian Banks*, as well as the upcoming *Love Me* and *The Wedding Banquet*, directed by Andrew Ahn, starring Lily Gladstone and Bowen Yang. ShivHans also has a first-look film deal with Academy Award-nominated and BAFTA Award-winning actor Dev Patel and his company Minor Realm. In 2022, ShivHans Pictures began producing live theater with



the hit Broadway musical & *Juliet and New York, New York*. Both productions received nine Tony nominations.

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