

SL: [PHOTOS + RECAP] Jamie Lee Curtis, Jane Fonda, Kristen Wiig, Tessa Thompson, Regina King, Maude Apatow & More at 2025 WIF Honors

****POST-EVENT ALERT ** PHOTOS & VIDEO ** POST-EVENT ALERT****



EVENT PHOTOS:

Getty Images: [HERE](#)

Photo Credit: Getty Images for WIF

Shutterstock: [HERE](#)

Photo Credit: Shutterstock for WIF

EPK REEL (Video): [HERE](#)

PRESS KIT: [HERE](#)

**JAMIE LEE CURTIS, KRISTEN WIIG, MAUDE APATOW, TESSA THOMPSON, MARA BROCK AKIL,
REGINA KING, NIA DACOSTA, DEDE GARDNER, GABRIELLE NADIG, AND JUDY BLUME
HONORED AT 2025 WIF HONORS CELEBRATING UNITY**

**PRESENTERS AND SPECIAL APPEARANCES INCLUDED JANE FONDA, KAIA GERBER, MARIA
BELLO, ELIZABETH DEBICKI, LILI REINHART, ATSUKO OKATSUKA, KAREN PITTMAN, ZOEY
DEUTCH, JANICZA BRAVO, AND MORE**

WIF Honors was held on November 6 at The Beverly Hilton and was presented by Max Mara with Visionary Sponsor e.l.f. Cosmetics, and additional support from Amazon MGM Studios, Apple TV, Delta Air Lines, Disney, Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Netflix, and STARZ
#TakeTheLead

LOS ANGELES – November 7, 2025 – Last night (Thursday, November 6), [WIF](#) (formerly known as Women In Film) celebrated the [2025 WIF Honors](#), an annual gala that raises vital funds for WIF’s education, career development, and advocacy programs, at The Beverly Hilton.

The 2025 WIF Honors gala celebrated storytellers and changemakers who are transforming culture through their art, advocacy, and impact. Themed *Unity*, the event underscored WIF’s mission to advance equity, sustainability, and representation across the screen industries and raised critical funds to support WIF’s education, career, and advocacy programs that champion women and nonbinary creatives in Hollywood.

The evening celebrated **Jamie Lee Curtis** with the **Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award** presented by **Jane Fonda**; **Kristen Wiig** with the **inaugural Icon Award** presented by **Kaia Gerber**; **Hedda’s Tessa Thompson**, **Nia DaCosta** (honored in absentia), **Dede Gardner**, and **Gabrielle Nadig** with the **Crystal Award for Advocacy in Film** presented by **Janicza Bravo**; **Forever’s Mara Brock Akil**, **Judy Blume** (honored in absentia), and **Regina King** with the **Crystal Award for Advocacy in TV** presented by **Karen Pittman**; and **Maude Apatow** with the **WIF Max Mara Face of the Future® Award** presented by **Maria Giulia Prezioso Maramotti**.

E! News correspondent **Francesca Amiker** and *NPR News* Culture Desk correspondent **Mandalit del Barco** also moderated short conversations during the program with the *Hedda* and *Forever* honorees. Amiker moderated a discussion with *Hedda’s* **Thompson, Gardner, and Nadig**, while Del Barco moderated a discussion with *Forever’s* **Akil and King**.

Special appearances included **Maria Bello**, who introduced the WIF Max Mara Face of the Future 20th Anniversary segment featuring fellow past honorees **Lili Reinhart, Elizabeth Debicki, and Zoey Deutch**. Comedian **Atsuko Okatsuka** (Hulu’s comedy special *FATHER*) opened the program with welcoming remarks and a monologue that filled the room with laughter.

Additional notable attendees included **Jurnee Smollett** (*Smoke*), **Adriyan Rae** (*Forever*), **Dolores Huerta** (activist), **EJAE** (*KPop Demon Hunters*), **Jameela Jamil** (actress), **Zoe Lister-Jones** (*DMV*), **Kirsten Schaffer** (CEO, WIF), **Sophia Hammons** (*Freakier Friday*) **Lake Bell** (*The Chair Company*), **Mychal-Bella Bowman** (actress), **Syrinthia Studer** (Board President, WIF), **Taylor Dearden** (*The Pitt*), **Taylor Paige** (*IT: Welcome to Derry*), **Amber Chardae Robinson** (*Palm Royale*), and more.

Event Highlights and Quotes:

- **Atsuko Okatsuka** quipped with the audience about being powerful women in the entertainment industry, jokingly stating, “women...highly regarded, highly respected, rulers of the world. That’s why we’re here tonight, we’re doing too well...it’s exhausting having this much power.”

- **Jane Fonda** was welcomed to the stage with a standing ovation and thunderous applause when she revealed her shirt with the word “RESIST” printed across. Fonda presented **Jamie Lee Curtis**, who was hand-selected by Fonda, with the Jane Fonda Humanitarian Award.
 - When speaking about what it means to be a humanitarian, Fonda said, “Humanitarianism means empathy, compassion for others, and we are in the business of compassion and empathy...Given today’s reality, humanitarianism and empathy are essential forms of resistance.”
 - While Fonda emphasized that humanitarianism and empathy are “at the heart of what we do in our profession,” so is the First Amendment. “Our profession, like all art forms, can’t exist without freedom of expression.
 - When accepting her award, Curtis touched on the start of her activism efforts by sharing her experiences with her mother, **Janet Leigh**, and the SHARE (Share Happily And Reap Endlessly) organization her mother helped launch. She recalled how she helped set up for the annual SHARE show as a child and how the shows are the “strongest memories of my childhood and my beautiful mother.” Curtis remarked that the organization is “an extraordinary example of what happens when women come together for a common cause like Women In Film.”
- **Regina King** and **Mara Brock Akil**, the honorees of the Crystal Award for Advocacy in TV, discussed their work on the Netflix hit series, *Forever*, and why the series has resonated with so many viewers regardless of race.
 - Both **King** and **Akil** sang their praises about **Judy Blume** when asked if they read Blume’s books growing up. “You become a writer as a reader first, and I devoured every book that she wrote,” Akil stated.
- Fellow WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award recipients **Maria Bello**, **Lili Reinhart**, **Elizabeth Debicki**, and **Zoey Deutch** spoke to the impact of the partnership between WIF and Max Mara over the past 20 years, and welcomed **Maude Apatow** to the esteemed sisterhood as the 20th recipient of the award.
 - **Apatow** shared her deep gratitude for the women who have played a role in her career, especially her mother, **Leslie Mann**. She shared, “My whole life I’ve watched her give incredible performances, but nothing could prepare me for seeing her talent up close when I directed her. Her ability to be hilarious, emotional, and heartbreaking all at once is mindblowing. The commitment to her craft and the dignity in which she carries herself will always be my North Star.”
 - **Apatow** also took the moment to share more about the impact of **Judy Blume’s “Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret”**, which she read as a ten-year-old. She recalled that the book “was funny, angsty, truthful, and made me fall in love with reading.”
- **Kirsten Schaffer**, WIF CEO, took a moment to acknowledge the difficult year and the people trying to diminish women and their voices, and how WIF is continuing to advocate for their community. She stated, “WIF matters because stories that center women as leaders, as scientists, as artists, as politicians shape our ideas about who we are and

who can become.” She went on to urge everyone to continue WIF’s mission by stating, “Let’s use our pens and voices to stand up for each other and especially those who are marginalized because, undivided, we do have the power.”

- The cast and creative team of *Hedda*, comprised of **Tessa Thompson, Dede Gardner** and **Gabrielle Nadiq** were honored with the Crystal Award for Advocacy in Film for their upcoming film, *Hedda*.
 - Touching on what advocacy in film means to her, Thompson shared that it means “curiosity.” She further divulged that it’s “curiosity about what other people are going through and what they need...If you have the great pleasure of being in a room, I feel like one great thing to do is to look around and think who else ought to be here, and that to me is the only thing I understand about advocacy and how to do it.”
- **Kaia Gerber** surprised her *Palm Royale* co-star, **Kristen Wiig**, by presenting her with the inaugural WIF Icon Award.
 - When speaking about Wiig, Gerber shared, “Tonight, we celebrate the woman who taught us that comedy is art, that chaos is beautiful, that sheer stupidity is not only encouraged but a necessity of life, and that being unapologetically yourself might be the most iconic move of all.”
 - During her acceptance speech, Wiig shared her admiration for WIF and their efforts in advancing women in the entertainment industry. “I love stories about women, we’re so crazy, we’re complex. We talk to each other about how we age, our sensitivities, our intuition, we share doctors with each other...it’s a never-ending source of material. I want to keep telling stories about women, with women,” she said.
 - **Attendees wearing Max Mara included:** Regina King, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jane Fonda, Karen Pittman, Maude Apatow, Mara Brock Akil, Gabrielle Nadiq, Atsuko Okatsuka, Janicza Bravo, Lili Reinhart, Zoey Deutch, Elizabeth Debicki, Maria Bello, Jurnee Smollett, Leslie Mann, Maggie Kang, and Beth Reisgraf.

The WIF Honors Committee, co-chaired by Victoria Alonso and Tracy McKnight, is comprised of WIF Board of Directors members including Tara Duncan, Monica Levinson, Andrea Nelson Meigs, Rachel Rusch, and Talitha Watkins. WIF Honors is presented by Max Mara with visionary sponsor e.l.f. Cosmetics and support from Amazon MGM Studios, Apple TV, Delta Air Lines, Disney, Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Netflix, and STARZ #TakeTheLead. The event was designed and produced by 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 Syrinthia Studer. Follow WIF on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), 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 WIF Icon Award honors a storyteller whose artistry has captured the zeitgeist and defined a generation. Through unforgettable performances and enduring influence, she has created cinematic magic that transcends time, shaping the cultural landscape and inspiring audiences around the world. Beloved by many, she has forever changed the face of film and television.

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 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 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.

About Max Mara, Presenting Sponsor

Max Mara, founded in 1951 by the late visionary Achille Maramotti, is one of the highest expressions of Italian luxury and style. A contemporary collection of ready-to-wear and accessories for the remarkable woman. 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 2,500 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 e.l.f. Cosmetics, Visionary Sponsor

e.l.f. Beauty (NYSE: ELF) is fueled by a belief that anything is e.l.f.ing possible. We are a different kind of company that disrupts norms, shapes culture and connects communities through positivity, inclusivity and accessibility. e.l.f. Cosmetics, our global flagship brand, makes the best of beauty accessible to every eye, lip and face by bringing together the best of beauty, culture and entertainment. Our superpower is delivering universally appealing, premium quality products at accessible prices that are e.l.f. clean and vegan, all double-certified by Leaping

Bunny and PETA as cruelty free. We are proud to have products made in Fair Trade Certified™ facilities. Learn more at www.elfcosmetics.com.

CONTACTS

Sunshine Sachs Morgan & Lylis
Gayle Moreau, Bridget Cirone & Kaila Williams
wifhonors@ssmandl.com

WIF

Chandra Jackson
cjackson@wif.org