

## **AL PACINO RECEIVES BFI FELLOWSHIP**

**LONDON – 22:30, Wednesday 24 September 2014:** Leading lights from the worlds of film, theatre and television gathered at the Corinthia Hotel London this evening to see legendary actor and director, **Al Pacino** receive a **BFI Fellowship** – the highest accolade the UK’s lead organisation for film can award.

One of the world’s most popular and iconic stars of stage and screen, Pacino receives a BFI Fellowship in recognition of his outstanding achievement in film. The presentation was made this evening during an exclusive dinner hosted by **BFI Chair, Greg Dyke** and **BFI CEO, Amanda Nevill**, sponsored by **Corinthia Hotel London** and supported by **Moët & Chandon**, the official champagne partner of the Al Pacino BFI Fellowship Award Dinner.

Speaking during the presentation, **Al Pacino said:** *“This is such a great honour... the BFI is a wonderful thing, how it keeps films alive... it’s an honour to be here and receive this. I’m overwhelmed – people I’ve adored have received this award. I appreciate this so much, thank you.”*

**BFI Chair, Greg Dyke said:** *“A true icon, Al Pacino is one of the greatest actors the world has ever seen, and a visionary director of stage and screen. His extraordinary body of work has made him one of the most recognisable and best-loved stars of the big screen, whose films enthral and delight audiences across the globe. We are thrilled to honour such a legend of cinema, and we thank the Corinthia Hotel London and Moët & Chandon for supporting this very special occasion.”*

Alongside BFI Chair Greg Dyke and BFI CEO Amanda Nevill, the Corinthia’s magnificent Ballroom was packed with talent from the worlds of film, theatre and television for Al Pacino’s BFI Fellowship presentation. Guests included actor, screenwriter, and director, **Richard E. Grant**; director **Terry Gilliam**; actor **John Hurt**; Bond producer **Barbara D Broccoli**; actor **Ian Holm**; director **Tom Hooper**; fashion designer **Ozwald Boateng**; playwright **David Hare** with wife, **Nicole Farhi**; actor, author, playwright and theatre director **Steven Berkoff**; actress **Joan Collins**; director **Terence Davies**; actress **Felicity Dean**; director and actor, **Dexter Fletcher**; artist and director **Julian Schnabel**; director **Asif Kapadia**; actor and comedian **John Sessions**; composer, record producer and songwriter **Magnus Fiennes**; producer **Barry Navidi**; and producer **Paula Wagner**.

The BFI Fellowship is awarded by the BFI Board of Governors and it is presented for outstanding achievement in film and television. Previous recipients include Sir Christopher Lee, Ralph Fiennes, David Cronenberg, Dame Judi Dench, Isabelle Huppert, Tim Burton, Martin Scorsese and Orson Welles. Since 1983, a total of seventy eight Fellowships have been awarded – the full list is a roll-call of the leading lights of the world of film and television.

Pacino's illustrious career has (so far) produced over 40 film roles, spanning from classics such as *The Godfather Trilogy* (1972, 1974 & 1990), *Scarface* (1983), and *Serpico* (1973) to *Sea of Love* (1989), *Scent of a Woman* (1992), *Insomnia* (2001). Pacino's most recent film appearances have been in *Manglehorn* (2014) and *The Humbling* (2014), which both world premiered at the 71st Venice International Film Festival in August.

Al Pacino studied acting first at the Herbert Berghof Studio, then under Lee Strasberg at the Actors Studio in New York (where he is currently co-president alongside Ellen Burstyn and Harvey Keitel). The recipient of countless awards, including **an Oscar<sup>®</sup>, 5 Golden Globes, 2 Emmys, a BAFTA and 2 Tonys**, Pacino's acting talents are world-renowned.

Pacino is also an acclaimed director, with credits including *Looking for Richard* (1996), *Chinese Coffee* (2000) - and recently *Wilde Salomé* (2011) and *Salomé* (2013), which along with a Q&A that saw Pacino and co-star Jessica Chastain in conversation with Stephen Fry, were this week simulcast from BFI Southbank to over 200 cinemas across the UK.

#### **Note to Editors:**

The Fellowship of the BFI (British Film Institute) was created in 1983 to coincide with the BFI's 50th anniversary. On that occasion the British film industry gathered in the Guildhall for a televised event at which the first group of Fellows were created - Marcel Carné, David Lean, Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger, Satyajit Ray and Orson Welles.

Since its creation, the BFI Fellowship has been awarded to key figures in British cinema including Peggy Ashcroft, Dirk Bogarde, Alec Guinness, Maggie Smith, Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Mike Leigh and Helena Bonham Carter. Also recognised have been such film industry luminaries as Jack Cardiff, Sydney Samuelson and Jeremy Thomas, and some of the giants of world cinema, including Michelangelo Antonioni, Abbas Kiarostami, Akira Kurosawa, Jeanne Moreau, Elem Klimov and Bernardo Bertolucci.

The BFI Fellowship also celebrates achievement in the world of television with such names as Alan Yentob, Jeremy Isaacs, David Rose, Michael Parkinson, Lynda La Plante, Lord Bernstein and Verity Lambert all receiving the award.

Since 1983 a total of 78 Fellowships have been awarded.

#### **Press Contacts:**

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### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead organisation for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.



### **About the Corinthia Hotel London**

Housed within a Victorian building, 294 rooms including 36 suites and 7 penthouses offer sweeping views across London's most popular landmarks. Corinthia Hotel London provides unrivalled world-class luxury with superb ground floor offerings including restaurant The Northall, serving the best in British produce throughout the day; modern Italian cuisine at Massimo Restaurant and the musically inspired Bassoon Bar. Corinthia London is also home to the flagship ESPA Life at Corinthia, a next-generation spa housed across four floors, together with a hair salon by Daniel Galvin. The hotel boasts the largest room sizes in London, original restored Victorian columns and tall windows that let in swathes of natural light. Cutting edge technology in rooms and meeting rooms allow for recording, mixing and broadcasting from dedicated media rooms. Corinthia London is a 21<sup>st</sup> century grand hotel located in the heart of London, created by experts with a passion for craftsmanship and an understanding of world-class service. Corinthia London is the ninth of Corinthia Hotels' collection of five-star hotels founded by the Pisani family of Malta.



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### **About Moët & Chandon**

Moët & Chandon is the champagne of success and glamour since 1743. Renowned for its achievements, firsts and legendary pioneering spirit, Moët & Chandon is the Maison that introduced champagne to the world. Synonymous with the most venerable of traditions and the most modern of pleasures, Moët & Chandon has celebrated life's most triumphant moments with grandeur and generosity for more than 270 years.

### **The Champagne of Cinema**

For nearly a century, Moët & Chandon has celebrated the glamour and the red carpet magic of international cinema. The Maison is a strong and long-time supporter of film awards and ceremonies, such as the Golden Globes, and the International Film Festivals in Venice and San Sebastian to name a few.

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalist use in promoting Al Pacino's BFI Fellowship dinner can be found at Getty Images, Corbis Images, Press Association and REX**