

AFI's 100 Years -- 100 Movies counts down top films in 3-hour TV event

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Citizen Kane, Casablanca, The Godfather, Titanic and Lord of the Rings among 400 films to vie for the title of greatest movie of all time

American Film Institute announced the 10th annual installment of its Emmy Award-winning AFI's 100 Years... series. AFI's 100 Years...100 Movies -- 10th Anniversary Edition will count down the 100 greatest movies of all time in a three-hour television event on CBS in June. The program will consider classic favorites and newly eligible films released from 1996 to 2006. AFI will undertake this program every 10 years to mark changing cultural perspectives.

"AFI has created the most comprehensive and credible examination of excellence in American film with the AFI's 100 Years... series," said AFI President and CEO Jean Picker Firstenberg. "And, whether you agree with these lists or not, they have sparked a 10-year conversation on what makes a great movie and why. We are excited to ignite this conversation once again, this year and every 10 to come. Let the debate begin!"

AFI's announcement also marks the beginning of a national "conversation" with the public, conducted on the institute's website, www.AFI.com. Movie fans who register online and download the official ballot of 400 films will be eligible to win a chance to attend the AFI Life Achievement Award tribute to Al Pacino, as well as posters and other AFI memorabilia.

Film enthusiasts will also be able to add their own voices to the online conversation by naming their favorite movie of all time, and sharing the reasons for their choices. A video gallery of stars' favorite movies, as well as other interactive features, will also be added during the coming months leading up to the June broadcast.

Since its inception, the AFI program has garnered considerable attention and included AFI's 100 Years...100 Movies (1998), 100 Stars (1999), 100 Laughs (2000), 100 Thrills (2001), 100 Passions (2002), 100 Heroes & Villains (2003), 100 Songs (2004), 100 Movie Quotes (2005) and 100 Cheers (2006).

For the 10th consecutive year, the primetime special will be executive produced and directed by Gary Smith; executive produced for AFI by former AFI Board Chair Emeritus Frederick S. Pierce; and produced by Dann Netter and Bob Gazzale. SFM Entertainment LLC is the distributor of the program. Past sponsors of the series have included AT&T, General Motors, Pepsi, Johnson & Johnson, Best Buy, Anheuser-Busch, Colgate-Palmolive, Sony and all major motion picture companies.

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