

**For Immediate Release:**

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**SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM SOCIETY ANNOUNCES BRUCE WILLIS TO RECEIVE 2009 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**(Sonoma, Calif. – December 17, 2008.)** The Sonoma International Film Society today announced that actor Bruce Willis will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Twelfth Annual Sonoma International Film Festival during the first week of April 2009. A longtime friend of the Festival, Bruce Willis has delighted TV and film audience for nearly three decades. Beginning with two uncredited roles in *THE FIRST DEADLY SIN* (1980) starring Frank Sinatra, and *THE VERDICT* (1982) starring Paul Newman, Willis's career began to take off after appearing in episodes of *MIAMI VICE* and *THE TWILIGHT ZONE*. Shortly after he landed a starring part alongside Kim Basinger in the romantic comedy *BLIND DATE* (1987). In 1988 the actor returned to television to star opposite Cybill Shepherd in the popular series *MOONLIGHTING*. Recognized for his charisma and tough guy persona, Willis later went on to star as maverick NYPD Officer John McClane in the wildly successful *DIE HARD* (1988) movie franchise. Following up as the voice of toddler Mikey in *LOOK WHO'S TALKING* (1989) and its subsequent sequels, Willis has enjoyed a long career as a leading man in such memorable films as *PULP FICTION* (1994), *TWELVE MONKEYS* (1995), *THE SIXTH SENSE* (1999), *16 BLOCKS* (2006), and Robert Rodriguez's retro horror cult movie *PLANET TERROR* (2007). Transitioning easily between serious and comical roles on both the small and big screen, Bruce Willis continues to delight audiences worldwide. Currently he has four feature films in the works for 2009—including his directorial debut, *THREE STORIES ABOUT JUNE*—and one slated for release in 2010.

The Twelfth Annual Sonoma International Film Festival (formerly known as the Sonoma Valley Film Festival) will take place in and around the City of Sonoma Plaza April 1-5, 2009. With its new motto *celebrating the senses*, The Sonoma International Film Festival promises to pair an extraordinary line-up of independent films, panel discussions and other special events with the region's best wine and gourmet food, as well as feature notable artists and musicians from the Sonoma Valley and elsewhere.

Under the leadership of its new Executive Director, Louisa Percudani, the Film Society and its sister program Film Sonoma offers year round screening and tasting events for its members, as well as an annual Academy Awards celebration soirée. Information regarding membership and sponsorship can be found at [www.sonomafilmfest.org](http://www.sonomafilmfest.org) or by calling (707) 933-2600.

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### **About the Sonoma International Film Society**

The Film Society presents year-round events and programs that celebrate the senses – *The best in film, food, wine, art and music*. Membership is all-inclusive for the monthly Cinema Series, which screens at the Sonoma Community Center (276 E. Napa St., Sonoma) every second Tuesday of the month. In 2003, the Film Society founded the Student Works Program with a vision toward empowering young filmmakers. Through dozens of weekend and after school film workshops, both at the middle and high school level, hundreds of students have been immersed in the process of filmmaking under the direction of film teacher Peter Hansen. The Film Society, through its members and granting organizations, have contributed state-of-the-art equipment, staffing and scholarships to this program and provided an opportunity for students to present their films at this world-class festival.