

# SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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## SUSAN SARANDON TO BE HONORED AT THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

(March 2, 2011, SONOMA,CA) -- The Sonoma International Film Festival (April 6-10, 2011) will present Academy Award® winning actress, **Susan Sarandon**, with its **Lifetime Achievement Award** on Saturday, **April 9, 2011**. The award honors a creative talent who, through the course of his or her career, has created a body of work which symbolizes the highest level of achievement in the motion picture art form.

Festival Director Kevin McNeely said, "Susan Sarandon's impressive ongoing contributions to the motion picture industry, social activism, and the exemplary manner that she conducts her private life makes her a worthy recipient of our Festival's highest honor. We look forward to welcoming Ms. Sarandon and having her enjoy our unique Festival where we celebrate the very best in film, food & wine."

Susan Sarandon began her acting career in 1969, playing a disaffected teen in the motion picture JOE. She followed this up with her iconic role as *Janet Weiss* in THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW. Sarandon's career includes many high-profile and provocative films including: ATLANTIC CITY, BULL DURHAM, THE HUNGER, WITCHES OF EASTWICK, WHITE PALACE, THELMA & LOUISE, LORENZO'S OIL, THE CLIENT, STEPMOM, LITTLE WOMEN, IGBY GOES DOWN, BERNARD AND DORIS, LEAVES OF GRASS and, most recently, SOLITARY MAN and WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS.

In recognition of her impressive body of work, Sarandon was a frequent Golden Globe and Academy Award® nominee; her role as *Sister Helen Prejean* in DEAD MAN WALKING earned her the 1996 Academy Award® for Best Actress. In addition to her illustrious career, Sarandon has devoted herself to political causes including MADRE, UNICEF and Heifer International.

Cevin Cathell, Festival Program Director said, "In both her art and her personal convictions, Ms. Sarandon is the ideal of what a star should be. We are thrilled to be able to celebrate her impressive life and career." To this end, The Sonoma International Film Festival will host an evening in recognition of Sarandon's cinematic accomplishments at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Hall. The tribute will feature a montage of clips from her films followed by an on-stage discussion with Sarandon about her career and upcoming projects. Immediately following presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award, there will be a reception in Ms. Sarandon's honor. The evening will close with the Festival Gala at the world-famous Sebastiani Winery.

Ms. Sarandon is the second recipient of the Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. Bruce Willis was the first in 2009. SIFF has honored in the past Danny Glover, Michael Keaton, Matthew Modine, Robert Forster, Blythe Danner, Alexander Payne, Agnieszka Holland, Mark Romanek, Joe Pantoliano, Lauren Hutton, and John Lasseter.

### **About the Sonoma International Film Festival**

The Sonoma International Film Festival is one of the top destination film festivals in the world and, located in the heart of Wine Country, is uniquely positioned to be a lively celebration of film, food and wine. An annual gathering for film industry insiders, cinema enthusiasts, filmmakers and critics, SIFF is considered among the most scenic and epicurean places to experience the art of film. Founded in 1997, The Sonoma International Film Festival is a five day international event that takes pride in showcasing emerging talent and featuring unreleased films.

SIFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Festival supports the Sonoma Valley High School Media Arts program established over a decade ago by the Sonoma Film Society. For information, local travel advice and ticket sales, please contact the SIFF headquarters:

Phone (707) 933-2600

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