



## NEWS RELEASE

### **MARSHALL HERSKOVITZ TO RECEIVE THE 16TH ANNUAL FRANKLIN J. SCHAFFNER ALUMNI MEDAL**

Honor to be Presented at  
AFI Life Achievement Award Tribute to Sean Connery on June 8

LOS ANGELES, CA, June 6, 2006—The American Film Institute (AFI) today announced that writer/director/producer Marshall Herskovitz will receive the 2006 Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal. Herskovitz, who graduated from the AFI Conservatory in 1975, will be presented with the Medal as part of the AFI Life Achievement Award Tribute to Sean Connery on June 8, 2006, which will be held at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

The Franklin J. Schaffner Alumni Medal recognizes the extraordinary creative talents of a graduate of the AFI Conservatory or of the Directing Workshop for Women who symbolizes the legacy of Franklin Schaffner. Established in 1991 by Franklin J. Schaffner's widow, Jean, the Alumni Medal celebrates the qualities associated with the late director: talent, taste, dedication and commitment to quality filmmaking. Over the course of a remarkable 40-year career, Schaffner earned a total of 28 Academy Award nominations and the directing Oscar for *PATTON* in 1970. Schaffner's association with AFI began in 1975, with his election to the Board of Trustees, and lasted until his death in 1989.

Jean Picker Firstenberg, AFI, Director and CEO commented, "We are extraordinarily proud of Marshall. Not only is he an incredible talent, he has become a remarkable example of a leader in the community. He is an active member of the AFI Board of Trustees, he has taught at the AFI Conservatory, and he is the new President of the Producers Guild of America. Whether on the set or at the table his voice is clear, creative and compassionate."

Writer/director/producer Marshall Herskovitz has enjoyed a distinguished career in the worlds of film and television. Born in Philadelphia, he attended Brandeis University and then the American Film Institute, where he and Edward Zwick met in 1975 and formed their long and successful creative partnership.

In 1985, they created The Bedford Falls Company—named for the town in *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE*—as the home for their film and television projects. Together, their accomplishments include the acclaimed TV series *THIRTYSOMETHING*, *MY SO-CALLED LIFE*, *RELATIVITY* and *ONCE AND AGAIN*. Herskovitz has been recognized

for excellence in television direction and writing with multiple Emmy awards, a Peabody and a Directors Guild of America award.

Together, Herskovitz and Zwick produced LEGENDS OF THE FALL, DANGEROUS BEAUTY, four-time Oscar winner TRAFFIC, I AM SAM and THE LAST SAMURAI. Herskovitz has directed two feature films; JACK THE BEAR (1993), with Danny De Vito and Reese Witherspoon and DANGEROUS BEAUTY (1998), a period romance with Catherine McCormack and Rufus Sewell.

Herskovitz is an AFI Trustee and the President of the Producers Guild of America.

The 15 prior recipients of the Schaffner Alumni Medal are David Lynch (1991), Edward Zwick (1992), Randa Haines (1993), Martin Brest (1994), Jon Avnet (1995), Carl Franklin (1996), John McTiernan (1997), Amy Heckerling (1998), Mimi Leder (1999), Terence Malik (2000), Darren Aronofsky (2001), Todd Field (2002), John Dahl (2003), Patty Jenkins (2004) and Paul Schrader (2005).

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