



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 5, 2002

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The Method Fest And Casting Society Of America
To Honor Casting Legend Mali Finn
Celebrated Casting Director To Receive First-Ever "Heart of Performance Award" at 4th Annual The Method Fest Independent Film Festival

Mali Finn, one the leading casting directors, both in independent films and Hollywood superproductions, has been selected by the Casting Society of America and the Method Fest Independent Film Festival to receive the first ever *Heart of Performance Award* at the 4th annual The Method Fest Independent Film Festival April 12-19, 2002 in Pasadena, California.

Finn will be honored at the Method Fest's Awards Ceremony on April 19 at the Travis Auditorium on the Fuller College Campus, 180 Oakland Avenue in Pasadena. Tickets for the reception, awards ceremony and wrap-party are \$25.

"Casting Directors are a vital part of the independent filmmaking process," said Katy Wallin, CSA Board Member. "We are very proud that Mali is receiving this inaugural award for her outstanding achievements as a casting director."

Finn has been the casting director for over 55 feature films and TV series. Her filmography includes the all-time gross receipts leader, *Titanic* (1997), *The Untouchables* (1987), *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* (1991), *The Client* (1994), *Your Friends and Neighbors* (1998), *The Matrix* (1999), *The Green Mile* (1999), *Tigerland* (2000), *The King is Alive...aka Dogme #4* (2000), *Wonder Boys* (2000), *Manic* (2001), *8 Mile* (2002), and many others.

Mali was the winner of the 2001 Emmy for Ensemble Casting and Artios Casting

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Award-Outstanding Achievement in MOW casting for *61**; the 1998 Artios Casting Award-Best Low-Budget Independent for *Sunday*; and the 1998 Artios Casting Award-Best Feature/Drama for *L.A. Confidential*.

“I love independent filmmaking because you get to work with good words, good actors and good directors,” says Finn. “It’s about the passion and craft.”

The Method Fest Independent Film festival is the only film festival based on performance, paying homage to the actor. The 4th annual The Method Fest festival runs from April 12-19 at Laemmle Playhouse 7 Cinema in Pasadena, with additional screenings at Pasadena Fuller Seminary's Travis Auditorium.

“Casting a film, particularly an Indie film, is a difficult challenge for any filmmaker,” says Don Franken, Method Fest Executive Director. “A casting director such as Mali Finn can make the difference between a good film and a great film.”

With over 360 members nationwide and in Canada, The Casting Society of America (CSA) is an organization of professional Casting Directors from all fields: feature films, television and theatre. The organization's goal is to provide a standard and level of professionalism within the field on which the entertainment community can rely.

Festival prices are \$8.50 for individual screenings, with a discount price of \$6.50 for students with ID and \$5.50, seniors with ID and children under 12.

The festival's glamour events - The Opening Night, Centerpiece Screening, and Closing Night film and receptions have special pricing. The festival VIP pass, which guarantees admission to all film screenings, (20 feature films and 35 short films) all parties, acting/filmmaking seminars, the Awards Ceremony, and the VIP filmmaker/celebrity hospitality room, is priced at \$150.

Tickets for the festival can be purchased on line at www.ticketweb.com or by calling 1-800-965-4827.

For the festival schedule, film descriptions and other information, visit www.methodfest.com.

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