



NINE NEW DISNEY LEGENDS TO BE HONORED DURING D23 EXPO 2017 IN ANAHEIM ON JULY 14

**Oprah Winfrey, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Stan Lee, Julie Taymor, and
Other Incredible Talents to be Honored at a Special 30th Anniversary
Awards Ceremony Hosted by Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger**

BURBANK, Calif. (April 6, 2017) – Oprah Winfrey, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Stan Lee, Julie Taymor, and other remarkable contributors to the Disney legacy will be honored as official Disney Legends during D23 Expo 2017. Hosted by Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger, the Disney Legends Award ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 14, in Hall D23 of the Anaheim Convention Center.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Disney Legends Awards. The first Disney Legend was Fred MacMurray (*The Shaggy Dog*, *The Absent-Minded Professor*, *The Happiest Millionaire*), who was honored in 1987.

“The Disney Legends Award is the highest honor our company can bestow on an individual, reserved for those few who have truly made an indelible mark on the history of The Walt Disney Company,” said Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger. “It’s a celebration of talent, a recognition of achievement, and an expression of gratitude to the men and women whose work has significantly contributed to Disney’s enduring reputation for creative excellence.”

The awards ceremony is just one of the dozens of spectacular events that Disney fans can enjoy during the three-day D23 Expo.

The 2017 Disney Legends Award honorees (listed alphabetically) are:

CARRIE FISHER became an overnight sensation in 1977 with her iconic performance as Princess Leia in *Star Wars*. But throughout her career, Carrie took on many roles—as an actress, author, playwright, screenwriter, and outspoken advocate for mental health awareness. For Disney, Carrie appeared in *Scream 3* (2000) and *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back* (2001) for Dimension Films, and, in 2015, she returned to the role that made her famous, starring as General Leia Organa in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. She reprised the role for *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, which will be released in December.

CLYDE “GERRY” GERONIMI joined the Disney Studio in 1931. His first assignments as an animator were for several memorable Mickey Mouse, Silly Symphony, and Pluto cartoons, and he eventually contributed to more than 50 of the Studio’s shorts. Gerry made the leap to sequence director with 1943’s *Victory Through Air Power*, and he subsequently contributed to *The Three Caballeros*, *The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*, and *One Hundred and One Dalmatians*. He also directed segments for television’s *Mickey Mouse Club* and contributed to episodes of *Walt Disney’s Wonderful World of Color*. The apex of his Disney career came when he served as supervising director for the 1959 masterpiece *Sleeping Beauty*.

MANUEL GONZALES was one of 33 artists selected from thousands of applicants to join Disney in 1936. In 1938, he took over penciling duties on the Sunday *Mickey Mouse* comic strip from Disney Legend Floyd Gottfredson. He brought Mickey Mouse to newspapers nationwide for nearly 40 years. At its peak, his Mickey-starring comic strip appeared in 120 newspapers around the world with a collective circulation of more than 20 million readers each week. Manuel was presented a “Mousecar” award by Walt Disney in 1966.

MARK HAMILL began his career in 1970, appearing in numerous television series guest-roles and several TV movies, including a recurring role on ABC’s *General Hospital* and starring in MTM’s acclaimed *The Texas Wheelers*. He achieved worldwide attention as Luke Skywalker in the original *Star Wars* trilogy, which included *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. He returned as Luke in *The Force Awakens* and will appear in the upcoming *The Last Jedi*. His stage career includes Broadway shows and the first national tour of *Amadeus* directed by Sir Peter Hall. A prolific voice-over actor, he has performed in countless animated television shows, feature films, documentaries, and video games. He appears on Disney’s *Miles from Tomorrowland* and *Milo Murphy’s Law*, and has also provided the voice of The Joker in the *Batman* animated series, a role that recently earned him a BAFTA Award.

WAYNE JACKSON began his career as a Walt Disney Imagineer in October 1965, and in the decades that followed he would put his technical skills and know-how to great use in the development and installation of Disney attractions around the world. Originally trained in aircraft tooling, he began as a technician and machinist assigned to rebuild the shows from the 1964–65 New York World’s Fair that were slated for installation at Disneyland. Instrumental in the early development of *Audio-Animatronics*[®] technology, Wayne would go on to help bring *Pirates of the Caribbean* and the *Haunted Mansion* to Disneyland. He went on to work on the construction and installation of attractions and show systems at Walt Disney World Resort, Tokyo Disney Resort, and Disneyland Paris.

STAN LEE got a job as an office assistant at a comic publisher in 1939 called Timely Comics—forerunner of the powerhouse we all know as Marvel. Stan made his debut with a Captain America story in 1941, and by the next year, at the age of just 18, he was promoted to editor. In 1961, Stan teamed up with Jack “King” Kirby to create the Fantastic Four and ushered in a spectacular new age of comics. Stan co-created an enormous roster of Marvel characters, including Iron Man, Hulk, Thor, Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, the X-Men, Daredevil, and Falcon. He became Marvel’s editorial director and publisher in 1972, and eventually was named chairman emeritus. His well-

known cameos in Marvel films began with 1989's telefilm *The Trial of the Incredible Hulk*, and since the release of *X-Men* in 2000 he has appeared in nearly every Marvel film project. Outside the super-hero realm, he has even popped up as a wedding guest in Disney's *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*.

GARRY MARSHALL began his career in Los Angeles writing for a number of hit shows, including *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *The Lucy Show*. But his big break came in 1970, when he produced *The Odd Couple* for ABC, the first of many big hits he created for the network. Beginning with *Happy Days* in 1974, he developed a shared universe of spinoffs including *Laverne & Shirley*, *Mork & Mindy*, and *Joanie Loves Chachi*. His other ABC sitcoms during these years included *Angie*, *The New Odd Couple*, and *Blansky's Beauties*. Garry was also a successful movie director, with 18 films to his credit. At Disney, he made stars of two young actresses: Julia Roberts, in *Pretty Woman*, and Anne Hathaway in *The Princess Diaries*. He directed Bette Midler in *Beaches*, as well as in *The Lottery*, a short film that for years was a fixture of the Backstage Tour at the Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park. Garry was known for his acting, as well, and he appeared in Disney's *Race to Witch Mountain*, *Chicken Little*, and as the Devil in *Hocus Pocus*.

JULIE TAYMOR is a Tony[®], Emmy[®], and Grammy[®]-winning and Oscar[®]-nominated filmmaker who has changed the face of Broadway with her innovative direction. Her adaptation of *The Lion King* debuted in 1997, becoming the most successful stage musical of all time; 24 global productions have been seen by more than 90 million people. The show has played in more than 100 cities in 19 countries. It received 11 Tony Award nominations, earning Julie Best Director, Costume Designer, and Best Musical for the show. Her production of *The Magic Flute* is currently in repertory at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Her films include *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *Titus*, *The Tempest*, the Golden Globe-nominated *Across the Universe*, and the Oscar-winning *Frida*. Taymor is a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship and an inductee into the Theater Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement. She is currently directing *M. Butterfly* on Broadway, opening Fall 2017.

OPRAH WINFREY is a renowned award-winning producer, actress, talk show host, and philanthropist. For 25 years she was the host of the award-winning talk show *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, which ran for 25 seasons on hundreds of stations domestically and in more than 100 countries around the world. Oprah is also an Academy Award[®]-nominated actress for her role in Steven Spielberg's 1985 hit *The Color Purple*. In 1998, she starred in *Beloved* for Disney's Touchstone Pictures, a film that she also produced. Oprah also produced and starred in ABC's 1989 limited series *The Women of Brewster Place*, and would go on to produce many films for ABC, including *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Before Women Had Wings*, and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* under the "Oprah Winfrey Presents" banner. She performed as Eudora in Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* in 2009 and will co-star as Mrs. Which in Disney's 2018 film *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Honorees receive a two-foot-tall bronze Disney Legends sculpture that signifies the imagination, creativity, and magic they have brought to the Company. Disney Legends Award recipients will also participate in a handprint ceremony at the end of the event, and their bronzed prints will be displayed in the Disney Legends Plaza at the Company's Burbank headquarters.

Admission to the ceremony will be on a first-come, first-served basis and is included in the price of a ticket to D23 Expo 2017.

Including this year's honorees, a total of 276 Disney Legends have been named. Past Disney Legends include Tim Allen, Julie Andrews, Beatrice Arthur, Howard Ashman, Regis Philbin, Annette Funicello, Peter Jennings, Johnny Depp, Estelle Getty, George Lucas, Angela Lansbury, Steve Martin, Rue McClanahan, Alan Menken, Hayley Mills, Fess Parker, Sir Tim Rice, Dick Van Dyke, Barbara Walters, Betty White, and Robin Williams. Beginning with the inaugural D23 Expo in 2009, thousands of Disney fans have been able to enjoy the Legends Awards ceremony live.

Tickets for D23 Expo 2017 are available for \$81 for one-day adult admission and \$59 for children 3–9. Members of D23: The Official Disney Fan Club can purchase tickets for \$72 for a one-day adult admission and \$53 for children 3–9. Multi-day tickets are also available. For more information on tickets and D23 Expo 2017, visit D23Expo.com.

About D23 Expo 2017

D23 Expo—The Ultimate Disney Fan Event—brings together all the worlds of Disney under one roof for three packed days of presentations, pavilions, experiences, concerts, sneak peeks, shopping, and more. The event provides fans with unprecedented access to Disney films, television, games, theme parks, and celebrities. For the latest D23 Expo 2017 news, visit D23expo.com. Presentations, talent, and schedule subject to change. To join the D23 Expo conversation, be sure to follow DisneyD23 on Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and YouTube, and use the hashtag #D23Expo.

About D23

The name “D23” pays homage to the exciting journey that began in 1923 when Walt Disney opened his first studio in Hollywood. D23 is the first official club for fans in Disney’s 90-plus-year history. It gives its members a greater connection to the entire world of Disney by placing them in the middle of the magic through its quarterly publication, *Disney twenty-three*; a rich website at D23.com with members-only content; member-exclusive discounts; and special events for D23 Members throughout the year.

Fans can join D23 at Gold and General Membership levels at D23.com and at DisneyStore.com/D23. To keep up with all the latest D23 news and events, follow DisneyD23 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube.

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