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News Release

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www.womennmedia.com

**WiM to Host 5th Annual Holiday Toast Honoring Legendary Women in the Industry**

December 10, 2022 Television City, Los Angeles

For the fifth year, Women In Media's Annual Holiday Toast will honor a slate of renowned women in the entertainment industry. The toast will pay tribute to legendary songwriter/composer Diane Warren, Executive Producer/Writer/Director Deborah Pratt (*Quantum Leap, Grey’s Anatomy*), Costume Designer Deborah L. Scott, (*Avatar, E.T.*, Oscar-winner for *Titanic),* Supervising Sound Editor Becky Sullivan (*The Woman King, Always Be My Maybe*), and Cinematographer/Camera Operator Michelle Crenshaw (*The Ranch, The Watermelon Woman*). The event will be held at Television City, the iconic studio owned and operated by an affiliate of Hackman Capital Partners.

Guest toast masters will join the honorees for a personalized panel where guests will share firsthand experiences and discuss the changing landscape for women and gender non-conforming individuals in the motion picture and entertainment community. The toast masters include Kimberly Jimenez the Senior Vice President, Post Production Services at Sony Entertainment, award-winning cinematographer Johnny Simmons, ASC, who is currently Emmy-nominated for *Family Reunion*, Producer/Director/Writer Romell Foster-Owens, p.g.a. (President, Jowharah Films), and award-winning composer Sharon Farber (*Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power, The Young and the Restless*). The discussion will conclude with a lively audience Q&A.

“I am honored to be recognized by Women In Media", says Diane Warren, who became the first songwriter ever voted to receive an Honorary Academy Award by the Academy’s Board of Governors. Her portfolio includes dozens of popular and rock hits, 13 past Academy Award nominations as well as the song, *Applause* in *Tell it Like a Woman,* which is eligible this year. Warren adds, "I am a strong advocate for women and this organization has been instrumental in recognizing women’s important contributions in the industry. And I'd like to give some applause to my fellow honorees.”

Women In Media promotes gender balance in the film and entertainment industries through networking, professional development, and advocacy for filmmakers who work above and below the line. This activity is made possible through generous sponsor participation. An essential partner, Zach Sokoloff, Senior Vice President at Hackman Capital Partners says, “Organizations like WiM provide invaluable opportunities for women and gender non-conforming individuals to obtain the skills necessary to become part of the next generation of production talent that will help create a more inclusive entertainment industry and reaffirm Los Angeles’ position as the creative capital of the world. This is not only a win for our region’s economy – creating new jobs and keeping production and people in LA – but also a win for diversifying our City’s most identifiable industry and allowing new storytellers with new perspectives to leave their mark on Hollywood.”

The WiM Holiday Toast includes a generous brunch buffet, silent auction, panel with candid conversation, and a champagne toast. All genders are encouraged to be part of the Holiday Toast celebration. Festivities run from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, December 10 at Television City, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Studio 46. Individual tickets, tables and sponsorships are available from: <https://womennmedia.com/event/2022-la-holiday-toast/>

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**About Women In Media**

In 2010, Women In Media started as an informal group of like minded folks who wanted to network and hire more women. In 2017, WiM became a 501(c)(3) Charity ~ EIN# 82-1807178, and expanded services to include education and initiatives. The cornerstone program is the CAMERAderie Initiative, which has boosted the careers of women and gender non-conforming folks from every department in the crew with development, production, and post production of high production short films. Through mentorship, education, and long term support, with an eye towards sustainable jobs, WiM has helped propel the industry closer to the goal of 40% – 60% women and gender non-conforming folks working in every crew, every department, on every show. For more information on Women In Media, please go to [www.womennmedia.com](http://www.womennmedia.com/).

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**Additional Press information**

Photos links: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sEcEKT83cPzts1AimTEHDLKqvAYZxj4m?usp=share_link>

Women In Media logo links: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aYpWSMjRqTV_iajX8kEvQm6_Qzs8WOxT?usp=share_link>

**Approved Quotes:**

**Diane Warren, composer**

“I am honored to be recognized by Women in Media. I am a strong advocate for women and this organization has been instrumental in recognizing women’s important contributions in the industry. And I'd like to give some applause to my fellow honorees.”

**Zach Sokoloff, Senior Vice President of Asset Management at Hackman Capital**

“Television City and Hackman Capital Partners are proud to be long-time supporters of Women In Media. Organizations like WiM provide invaluable opportunities for women and gender non-conforming individuals to obtain the skills necessary to become part of the next generation of below-the-line production talent that will help create a more inclusive entertainment industry and reaffirm Los Angeles’ position as the creative capital of the world. This is not only a win for our region’s economy – creating new jobs and keeping production and people in LA – but also a win for diversifying our City’s most identifiable industry and allowing new storytellers with new perspectives to leave their mark on Hollywood. We hope that Women In Media is an example to organizations across Los Angeles and look forward to continuing to champion its successes.”

**Deborah Pratt, Executive Producer/Writer/Director**

“It is with a full heart that I share this humble thank you to be honored by Women In Media. Your work to advance and connect women in the moving image arts speaks volumes about your grace, integrity and devotion to entertainment. Thank you for taking the time to recognize my body of work in the entertainment industry. I cannot express my gratitude enough at being honored on this special occasion by the members of Women In Media.”

**Becky Sullivan**, **Supervising Sound Editor**

 “I am honored to be chosen for this year's toast to filmmakers. Women In Media’s mission to bring gender balance to the workplace is a much needed commission. I’m here for it!”

**Kimberly Jimenez, VP, Post Production Services at Sony**

“What a privilege it is to be a part of this event, and to be surrounded by such talented individuals within our field; it’s an honor and a pleasure.”

**Tema Staig, Founder and Executive Director, Women In Media**

"I'm very proud of the work Women In Media has done to forward inclusion in the crew. Since our first event in 2010, we've been supporting women and folks who believe in balance on set with networking events, technical classes, panels, and screenings of films by women directors of historical significance.”

“Our panelists have inspiring stories to tell, having had such impressive careers. They can speak as to how things were in the past to give us a clearer insight into the future of how women are seen, heard, and hired above and below the line. I'm very excited to bring our community together to toast these amazing women! It's been a remarkable year, and I'm thrilled we're ending it on a high note."

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