



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Strategic Heights Media
Michelle Huff Elliott; Simone Smalls
info@strategicheights.com
212-634-7176

***ACTRESS, SINGER AND AUTHOR DIAHANN CARROLL TO RECEIVE
“HOLLYWOOD LEGACY AWARD” AT THE 2016 ABFF HONORS***

*Annual Awards Gala to Salute Excellence in Motion Pictures and Television
Sunday, February 21, in Los Angeles*

December 14, 2015, Los Angeles, CA --- Continuing its tradition of providing platforms showcasing work of people of African heritage and promoting camaraderie among multicultural artists in Hollywood, the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) is proud to announce legendary singer, actress and author **Diahann Carroll** will be the recipient of the **“2016 ABFF Honors Hollywood Legacy Award.”** ABFF Honors will be held **February 21, 2016, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel**, Beverly Hills, CA.

Hosted by Mike Epps, the event will feature a presentation of nine awards, including Film of the Year, Television Show of the Year, Excellence in the Arts, Hot In Hollywood and the Hollywood Legacy Award. Invited guests to this private affair will include artists and other prominent members of the Hollywood community. The evening will begin at 4 p.m. with red carpet arrivals, followed by an elegant and spirited awards dinner and after-party.

The mission of the awards gala is to celebrate Black culture by honoring individuals, movies and television shows that have had a significant impact on American entertainment, as well as the people who are proponents of championing diversity and inclusion in Hollywood.

In paying tribute to Ms. Carroll, ABFF Honors looks to illuminate a distinguished career that has spanned more than sixty years. She has moved effortlessly between the worlds of film, television, music and the stage, earning her the designation *Hollywood legend*. She is an Oscar nominee, a Tony Award winner, a Golden Globe winner, a four-time Emmy nominee, a Grammy nominee and a best-selling author.

Diahann Carroll made her Broadway debut starring in the Harold Arlen/Truman Capote musical *House of Flowers*. After seeing her in that production, Richard Rodgers created his own starring vehicle for her, the Broadway musical *No Strings*, for which she won a Tony Award.

Perhaps best known for her groundbreaking lead role as a nurse and single mom in the critically acclaimed television series *Julia*, which debuted in 1968 and ran for three years, Diahann Carrroll earned her first Emmy nomination. Her extensive television career includes the game-changing role as “Dominique Devereaux” on the internationally popular television series *Dynasty*, as well as recurring roles on USA’s hit series *White Collar*, ABC’s *Grey’s Anatomy* and *A Different World*.

On the big screen, Ms. Carrroll received an Oscar nomination for Best Actress and a Golden Globe award for her starring role opposite James Earl Jones in *Claudine*. Other notable films include *Carmen Jones*, *Paris Blues*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Hurry Sundown*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and *Eve’s Bayou*.

“Diahann Carrroll is one of the most talented and distinguished artists in American history. We are looking forward to paying tribute to her rich trailblazing legacy,” said Jeff Friday, president & CEO of Film Life, Inc. and ABFF Ventures.

Promising to be a highlight of the Hollywood awards season and Black History Month, ABFF Honors is produced by ABFF Ventures (a partnership between Film Life, Inc., and Black Enterprise), in association with de Passe Jones Entertainment.

2016 ABFF Honors sponsors include: Presenting Sponsor - Cadillac and Gold Sponsor – Prudential.

For more information about the 2016 ABFF Honors, log on to www.abffhonors.com. Also, follow us on our social media platforms:

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/abff>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Black-Film-Festival/47321635722>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/AmericanBlackFilmFestival>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ABFFTV/featured>

Hashtags: #ABFFHonors; #ABFF20

ABOUT THE ABFF

Founded in 1997, the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) is an annual event dedicated to showcasing quality film and television content by and about people of African descent. The festival is committed to the belief that Black artists and content creators deserve the same opportunities as their mainstream counterparts. ABFF founder Jeff Friday conceived the festival as a vehicle to promote diversity in the motion picture industry and strengthen the Black filmmaking community through resource sharing, education, artistic collaboration and career development. Today, the ABFF is recognized as the #1 source for new Black talent, both in front of and behind the camera, and is regarded as one of the leading film festivals in the world. The festival is produced by ABFF Ventures (a partnership between Film Life, Inc., and Black Enterprise). Celebrating its 20th year, the 2016 ABFF will be held June 15-19, 2016, in Miami, Florida. For more information about the festival, visit www.ABFF.com

#####