Los Angeles Press Club

Ann-Margret
The Legend Award

Ben Mankiewicz
The Luminary Award

Tarana Burke
The Impact Award

Danny Trejo
The Visionary Award

Quentin Tarantino
The Distinguished Storyteller Award

2019
Twelfth Annual

National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards

Los Angeles Press Club
Good evening and welcome to the 12th annual National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards.

Think about how much the entertainment industry has changed since the Press Club introduced these awards in 2008. Arnold Schwarzenegger was our governor, not a Terminator. Netflix sent you DVDs in the mail. The iPhone was one year old.

Fast forward to today and the explosion of technology and content that is changing our lives and keeping journalists busy across the globe. Entertainment journalism has changed as well, with all of us taking a much harder look at how societal issues influence Hollywood, from workplace equality and diversity to coverage of political events, the impact of social media and U.S.-China relations.

Your Press Club has thrived amid all this. Participation is way up, with more than 600 dues-paying members.

The National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards have grown and changed as well. Tonight we’re in a ballroom in the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, but in 2008 the awards took place in the Steve Allen Theater, the Press Club’s old home in East Hollywood. That building has since been torn down.

Our first event in 2008 featured a cocktail party with no host and only 111 entries in the competition. By this year, we had nearly 10 times as many entries, which increased 40% from 2018!

Back in 2009, we started our awards programs by honoring Wall Street Journal and KCRW critic Joe Morgenstern. Hosting that 2009 event was Oscar-nominated actor Robert Forster, who died in October at age 78. To honor Forster and his distinguished career, we are dedicating tonight’s event to him.

Tonight’s lineup is stellar, and in addition to more than 70 awards recognizing the best in print, broadcast, online and other journalism, the Press Club will honor entertainment industry leaders Quentin Tarantino, Danny Trejo, Tarana Burke, Ben Mankiewicz and Ann-Margret.

We hope you enjoy the program. Renew your membership and help us promote the fine work of journalists everywhere.

Chris Palmeri,
President
The Distinguished Storyteller Award
For Excellence in Storytelling Outside of Journalism
QUENTIN TARANTINO
Introduction by Jamie Foxx

The Impact Award
For Influential Contributions to Culture and Society
TARANA BURKE
Introduction by Rosanna Arquette

The Luminary Award
For Career Achievement
BEN MANKIEWICZ
Introduction by Josh Mankiewicz

The Visionary Award
For Humanitarian Work
DANNY TREJO
Introduction by Rep. Tony Cárdenas

The Legend Award
For Lifetime Achievement and Contributions to Society
ANN-MARGRET
Introduction by Maud Adams and interviewed by George Pennacchio

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COLUMBIA PICTURES
WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THE LOS ANGELES PRESS CLUB
AND PROUDLY CONGRATULATES OUR WINNER
QUENTIN TARANTINO
THE DISTINGUISHED STORYTELLER AWARD
AT THE
12TH NATIONAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALISM AWARDS GALA
Schedule of Events

4:30 p.m.  RED CARPET RECEPTION
5:00 p.m.  COCKTAILS & SILENT AUCTION
6:00 p.m.  DINNER AND PROGRAM
8:00 p.m.  SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

AWARDS PRESENTATION
STUDENT
SOCIAL MEDIA
BLOGS
FEATURE

ROBERT FORSTER TRIBUTE by Dan Lauria
FEATURE

THE DISTINGUISHED STORYTELLER AWARD for Excellence in Storytelling Outside of Journalism
Quentin Tarantino

CELEBRITY NEWS
PERSONALITY PROFILES

THE IMPACT AWARD for Influential Contributions to Culture and Society
Tarana Burke

ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW
DESIGN
DOCUMENTARY
NON-FICTION BOOK

Alonzo Bodden
BUSINESS
INVESTIGATIVE
NEWS

THE LUMINARY AWARD for Career Achievement
Ben Mankiewicz

COLUMNIST
COMMENTARY
CRITIC

THE VISIONARY AWARD for Humanitarian Work
Danny Trejo

WEBSITE & PUBLICATION
JOURNALIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

THE LEGEND AWARD for Lifetime Achievement and Contributions to Society
Ann-Margret
PHOTO JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL JOSEPH JAMES, KTLA 5 News
1. Even though there is PLENTY of room to stretch the Red Carpet down the street, several red carpet shoots proved frustrating when the Media Pen was reduced to just a few feet of depth, while offering less than a foot between media outlet “Spots” to do interviews. All this, the media “props”, creating the illusion of a media frenzy.

2. I’d say we had fun at the Super Bowl in Atlanta, generating fun packages for Rams Fans.

3. Love Wasserman, so I could ask him, “WHY did you sell Universal to Matsushita?!”

4. Hmm. Disney+?

PAUL SANCHEZ, KTLA 5 News
1. I’d have to say my most challenging story of the year has been working on exposing a puppy mill operating out of a mall store front. The time and travel that went into telling a full story about it, along with a lot of patience, went a long way. Despite the stores closing before the story ran, I’d like to think we helped shut it down.

2. I’m most proud of our ongoing series with the Positive Change, the prison program that rehabilitates shelter dogs, as well as prisoners in jail for various crimes.

3. I’d have to say the Dalai Lama.

4. I predict that Sony movie studios will be bought out by Apple.

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR – ONLINE

ERIK GARDNER, The Hollywood Reporter
1. All the source material for HBO’s “Succession.”

2. The one about Johnny Depp, not because of my smart breakdown about the significance of jurisdiction in the digital era, but because it produced a weeks-long email dialogue between myself and his “lawyer” that should one day make a fine addition to the Compendium of Early 21st Century Thinking.

3. Interviewing anyone dead would be quite an accomplishment, but I’d love to talk to my great-great-great grandfather who emigrated from Eastern Europe to the United States nearly 150 years ago about his experience and what he thinks about the subsequent geopolitical developments over space and time. Failing that, Quentin Tarantino

4. I predict those trustworthy Russians will create an app aging developments over space and time. Failing that, Quentin Tarantino.

OWEN GLIEBERMAN, Variety
1. It’s the critic’s mission to be true to his or her inner voice. But when I had mixed feelings about the awesomely acclaimed Roma, it caused me some anguish. What I came to realize was that my more qualified response, because of its singularity, could become an essential part of the dialogue.

2. “How Michael Moore Lost His Audience” – I captured a documentarian’s waning influence, but the grander theme that percolates beneath the surface of the essay is how liberal culture, if it’s going to win this country back, must be more willing than it is to take a hard look in the mirror.

3. It’s always challenging when I have to first look at my own hypocrisy before I start writing about others. My blog on what the media is doing to destroy the royal couple, Harry and Meghan, was most challenging because of my own involvement in the situation for the past few years.

4. I’ll always be most proud of my take on the always current situation at The Motion Picture Academy.

RICHARD STELLAR, TheWrap
1. I’m always challenged when I have to first look at my own hypocrisy before I start writing about others. My blog on what the media is doing to destroy the royal couple, Harry and Meghan, was most challenging because of my own involvement in the situation for the past few years.

2. I’ll always be most proud of my take on the always current situation at The Motion Picture Academy.

3. Simple. John Lennon. I believe we wouldn’t be in the mess we are in now had he lived. Here was an artist whose inner conflicts fueled a seismic arts-and-entertainment story of 2020.

4. We are involved in that story now. Unless we stop the direction that we are heading, the arts will lose federal funding. The story is the fight to retain our individual identities, and to have our voices supported through The National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities, of which we are in danger of losing to this administration.

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR – ONLINE

MICHAEL JOSEPH JAMES, KTLA 5 News
1. I predict that Sony movie studios will be bought out by Apple.

2. What photo/story are you most proud of?

3. Who would you most like to photograph/interview, dead or alive?

4. What do you predict will be the big arts/entertainment story of 2020?

MADELEINE BRAND, KCRW
1. Telling the story of the migrant children separated from their parents and being detained.

2. Our MeToo coverage of the comedy world.

3. My grandmother, who escaped the Holocaust.

4. The streaming wars.

ALEX COHEN, Spectrum News 1
1. Talking to a mother whose son survived Route 91 (Harvest Festival in Las Vegas), only to be fatally shot at the Borderline Bar.

2. My conversation with musician Wayne Kramer about his memoir, The Hard Stuff. We talked in depth about his music, his battles with addiction and how he has dedicated much of his life sharing the power of music with prison inmates.

3. Tom Waits, Jason Bateman and Leonard Cohen, whom I met when I was 17, at a silent Zen Buddhist retreat in New Mexico. I had no idea who he was at the time, but wound up becoming a huge fan of his music. I wish I could have spoken with him when he was alive.

4. Who wins the streaming wars and how?
JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR – Print

DOUG KOLK, KTLA 5 News
1. Last October, when photojournalist Michael James and I were called off our nightly entertainment beat to cover “The Woolsey Fire,” a fast-moving wildfire burning through the Point Dume section of Malibu. It was an amazing story. KTLA’s coverage was so relevant that we were finally able to publish the story that led to the ouster of Warner Bros. CEO Kevin Tsujihara. Prompted many in the industry to reexamine their own choices.
2. Another one of my favorite stories this year was Vulture’s expose on Bob Dylan. It was a great story, but it was disappointing to see how many readers commented that the story was too negative.
3. I would have liked to have grilled her on her politics, but it was a great story. She doesn’t do “press.”

LUCAS SHAW, Bloomberg Businessweek
1. An investigation revealing multiple charges of anticompetitive behavior against Google and YouTube. Getting people to disagree Google off the record was easy, but finding people who would cite specific examples of Google’s efforts to stifle competition was hard. The advertising business was not especially not the record. This company can squish just about any competitor without much effort.
2. A profile of a Danish pop star who is one of the only Western acts to crack China. What started as a business story about Western companies seeking to tap into the booming music market in China morphed into a funny and revealing profile of a young musician. At a crossroads. His ambitions stilled at home, he has started to find his footing in a very foreign place, one that has not been friendly to foreign musicians.
3. Win Scully. No one knows more about baseball history, or my beloved Los Angeles Dodgers. And no one in any country, profession, or circumstance is a better storyteller.
4. The streaming wars will continue to dominate a lot of the coverage, as people fuss over the success, failure or mediocrity of new services like Disney+, Apple TV+ and HBO Max, as well as their impact on content. Netflix, Amazon and Hulu. If we finally get the global streaming wars, I think that I’m okay with that because he doesn’t suffer fools gladly.

TATIANA SIEGEL, The Hollywood Reporter
1. Why a Super Producer Kept Her Cancer Battle Secret From Hollywood. Shearer’s family refused to participate, and a powerful friend lobbied to have the story killed. Writing it required a delicate balance of presenting a compelling narrative and considering the privacy of a woman who likely would not have wanted her story told. But based on the feedback I received after publication, it inspired a great many readers and prompted many in the industry to reexamine their own choices.
2. Need to be Careful” Texts Reveal Warner Bros. CEO Promoted Actress Amid Apparent Sexual Relationship. After 17 months of reporting, we were finally able to publish the story that led to the ouster of Warner Bros. CEO Kevin Tsujihara.
4. Disney. The success of its streaming service, the industry implications of its growing market share and how it addresses (or ignores) growing unrest and human rights abuses in China, where it is heavily invested.

KACEY MONToya, KTLA 5 News
1. Definitely the combination of the Borderline shooting and the Woolsey fire happening back to back. To meet people who lost loved ones in a senseless shooting and then lost their homes in a fire was unbearable. Trying to cover the ever changing Woolsey fire and run from flames was as difficult as it gets. There was no cell service in and surrounding areas and the flames were so erratic at one point we saw a flare up and helped a local neighbor protect his home with garden hoses.
2. I am still most proud of a story I won an Emmy for, Pawiitive Change Prison Program. But I am proud of many stories I’ve done this year where we have helped impact someone’s life in a positive way. One of the stories I entered this year about the local nonprofit who was scammed out of $10,000 by the venue where they were planning an event was special because after the story aired they got their money back!
3. The President, Benyette Frankel and Lisa Vanderpump!
4. Definitely the college admissions scandal.

CHRIS WILLMAN, Variety
1. The Coachella Festival is my bête noire, inducing blisters that make me want to saw my feet off. But what are you going to do when you have to run between overlapping sets by Blackpink, Rosalia and The 1975, trying to catch 10 minutes of each? Repeat for three days and then repeat two weeks later for Stagecoach. Of course, I’ll give up these festival assignments to a bang-up humanitarian, and a personal hero. Telling her story makes you feel like you even might be in the right job.
2. Bob Dylan is the big one I will spend a lifetime hoping to land. It won’t happen, because he only does a few interviews per decade. I justify that I’m okay with that because he doesn’t suffer fools gladly and I may qualify.
3. I’m proud we made Brandi Carlile our cover subject for Variety’s Grammy issue about 10 minutes before she became a household name. She’s as good a singer or songwriter as we’ve got right now, a bang-up humanitarian, and a personal hero. Telling her story makes you feel like you even might be in the right job.
4. How many celebrities choose to get involved in the election. Ninety-five percent or more will want to do anything they can to help drive out Trump—but will the more culturally sensitive ones be born, as so many were in 2016, about how to speak up without becoming part of a counterproductive elite stereotype? There will be grappling.
WHEN it comes to talking about Hollywood, it’s easy to slip into hyperbole. But it is no exaggeration to say that director, producer, screenwriter and actor Quentin Tarantino is the most influential filmmaker of his generation, as well as one of the greatest cinematic visionaries of all time.

The auteur exploded on the scene with 1992’s Reservoir Dogs, and two years later his Pulp Fiction blew away audiences and won the Oscar for best original screenplay. In the ensuing quarter century Tarantino has made seven more films, all of which qualify as genuine cinematic events.

In recognition of all that he has achieved, the Los Angeles Press Club tonight is presenting Tarantino with its second Distinguished Storyteller Award (last year’s inaugural prize went to author Michael Connelly). The honor was created to pay heed to storytellers outside of journalism whose dazzling skills bring fiction to life.

“Quentin’s unique voice and passionate commitment have served the movie business as an inspiration to many,” said Press Club President Chris Palmeri. “His efforts reigniting the careers of veteran actors have impacted popular culture.” That impact has taken many forms, and tonight there is an additional, special significance.

Tarantino cast veteran actor Robert Forster in his 1997 film Jackie Brown, and Forster’s role as bail bondsman Max Cherry both earned him an Oscar nomination and revived his career. Last year Forster told the Chicago Tribune that before Jackie Brown, “I went 21 months without a job.”

In 2008, Forster hosted the Los Angeles Press Club’s first National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards. Unfortunately, he passed away last month at the age of 78. Tonight’s awards are dedicated to Forster’s memory.

Tarantino’s story has been well told. He dropped out of school in the ninth grade and went to work in the Manhattan Beach video store Video Archives, where he began developing an encyclopedic knowledge of cinema that rendered him a walking and talking IMDB. His filmmaking career took off quite by accident—he and Roger Avary were production assistants on a 1986 Dolph Lundgren video. Tarantino was hired to write the script that would become 1996’s From Dusk Till Dawn and Tarantino sold the scripts for what became 1993’s True Romance and 1994’s Natural Born Killers in order to finance Reservoir Dogs. It featured then-little known actors such as Steve Buscemi, Michael Madsen and Tim Roth.
Looking back, Tarantino pointed to the challenges of a first feature. "There are so many things about this movie where I didn't know anything," he said at a 25th anniversary screening of the film, according to a 2017 report in The Guardian. "If I could do it all again, I'd do it slightly differently."

Still, it made waves, and with that indie masterpiece, Tarantino was off to the races. His films have been dazzling and diverse, and include Kill Bill: Vol. 1 (2003) and Vol. 2 (2004), 2007's Grindhouse: Death Proof, 2009's Inglourious Basterds, 2012's Django Unchained and 2015's The Hateful Eight.

There have been awards aplenty over the years. Tarantino won a second best original screenplay Oscar for Django Unchained, and the film earned Christoph Waltz his second Academy Award (he also nabbed one for Inglourious Basterds). And The Hateful Eight netted acclaimed composer Ennio Morricone his only Oscar.

Tarantino's most recent work is Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood. The film, which stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt, opened this past summer and came out on DVD just last week. The film drew attention for many reasons, including its remarkable recreation of 1969 Los Angeles, its Hollywood-insider references and the inclusion of Charlie Manson in the script. In a recent issue of Esquire, when writer Michael Hainey asked what he was trying to say with the title, noting that it has a fairy tale aspect, Tarantino responded, "Well, there is a fairy-tale aspect, so the title fits pretty good. But this is a memory piece also. So it's not historical fact, per se. It is a Hollywood of reality—but a Hollywood of the mind at the same time. I was so happy with the title, but I was afraid to put it into the atmosphere. Whenever I referred to this project, I referred to it as Magnum Opus."

While Tarantino often references other films in his own, his storytelling is nothing if not original, and reflects his unique sensibility. He is a master wordsmith, a student of pop culture, a shock artist, a comedian and a humanist. Above all, he is fearless, regularly doing things that others have never done before, but many later try to imitate.

There is another side of Tarantino, one that has also drawn ample notice, and that pays off for film fans every single day in Los Angeles. In 2007, the director bought the historic New Beverly Cinema on Beverly Boulevard. He eventually declared that the movie house would use only film prints. Many of those come from his extensive private collection, and help keep the classics alive on the big screen.

"I want the New Beverly to be a bastion for 35mm films," Tarantino says on the theater's website. "I want it to stand for something. When you see a film on the New Beverly calendar, you don't have to ask whether it's going to be shown in DCP [digital cinema package] or 35mm. You know it's playing in 35 because it's the New Beverly."

Sadly, Tarantino, despite being the youngest 56-year-old ever, insists that his next film will be his last, as he wants to go out while he is still at the top of his game. If his tenth film is anywhere near as impactful as his ninth, then he will have achieved his objective.
TARANA BURKE, WHO LAUNCHED THE ‘ME TOO’ MOVEMENT, RECEIVES THE LA PRESS CLUB’S IMPACT AWARD

BY LISA RICHWINE

Burke was featured on the cover of Hannah magazine in 2018.

Tarana Burke was running an after-school program when she kept hearing about rampant sexual violence against black women and girls. She pulled out a piece of paper and wrote a simple phrase: me too.

Those two words, written in 2006, guided Burke’s creation of a movement to help survivors of sexual violence to heal. More than a decade later, they resonate as a rallying cry worldwide.

Tonight, the Los Angeles Press Club is honoring Burke with the Impact Award, an accolade that recognizes influential contributions to culture and society.

A native of the Bronx, Burke has spent nearly 30 years promoting racial justice and gender equality, with a focus on black girls and women, through grassroots work in Alabama, Philadelphia and New York. She used the phrase “me too,” which she has described as offering “empowerment through empathy,” to promote solidarity among survivors and a greater awareness on the prevalence of sexual violence.

In 2017, the #MeToo hashtag went viral as a response to rape and sexual assault allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, and helped spark a worldwide conversation. The hashtag was used on social media more than 19 million times in the first year, according to the Pew Research Center.

“I could never have envisioned something that would change the world,” Burke told NBC News in late 2017. “I was trying to change my community.”

The origin of “me too” stretches back to 1997 when Burke was working at a youth camp and a 13-year-old girl named Heaven confided that she had been abused by her mother’s boyfriend. Burke found herself at a loss for how to respond or help.

“I couldn’t even bring myself to whisper…” Burke said in a note on the me too organization’s website.

The experience stuck with Burke and informed the action plan she created in 2006. She founded Just Be Inc., a non-profit organization focused on the overall well-being of young women of color, where she put the phrase “me too” into practice.

She also went public with her own story of being abused as a child and teenager.

The origin of “me too” stretches back to 1997 when Burke was working at a youth camp and a 13-year-old girl confided that she had been abused by her mother’s boyfriend.

Burke’s career then moved forward to nonprofits in Philadelphia and New York. Then, in October 2017, the New York Times and the New Yorker reported detailed sexual assault allegations from multiple women who said they were abused by Weinstein. (He has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone and is scheduled to go on trial in January on charges of rape and predatory assault of two women.)

As the public reacted to the initial reports about Weinstein, actress Alyssa Milano urged anyone who had been sexually abused or assaulted to type the phrase “me too” on Twitter. The response was enormous as mil-
lions of women flooded social media around the world with stories of being abused, groped, molested and raped. Burke was not involved in Milano’s tweet, and she told the New York Times her first reaction was panic that the phrase would be used in a way she had not intended. But she decided to seize the moment to amplify the idea she had been advocating for years. She spoke to audiences and the media about her vision behind the phrase and sought to put the focus on the survivors, including those outside of Hollywood.

“This is a movement about the one in four girls, and the one in six boys, who are sexually assaulted every year and carry those wounds into adulthood,” Burke said in a 2018 TED Talk. “It’s about the 80% of black girls like me who will be experiencing sexual violence before they turn 18, and the thousands and thousands of low-wage workers who are being sexually harassed right now on jobs they cannot afford to quit,” she added.

In 2018, actress Michelle Williams invited Burke to walk the red carpet as her guest at the Golden Globe awards, a move intended to give the activist a high-profile platform to discuss her work. Burke urged Williams to broaden the effort and helped pair several activists and actresses for the event.

Since then, the accounts from women have led to changes across entertainment, media, business and government. Several high-profile men lost their powerful positions, and corporations across industries re-evaluated sexual harassment policies.

“This is the fastest moving social change we’ve seen in decades and it began with individual acts of courage by hundreds of women—and some men, too—who came forward to tell their own stories.” —Edward Felsenthal, Time magazine

Recently, Burke has urged people to use a new hashtag—#MeToovoter—to signify to politicians that they want government policies that support survivors and accountability for sexual predators.

She also is pushing media outlets to raise the topic during the televised debates among candidates for president. The viral spread of #MeToo “was a consciousness-stirring moment, but it’s not enough to create awareness,” Burke wrote in Time magazine. “What matters is what we do next.”

Above: In 2018, Burke was one of several cover subjects for their annual 100 Most Influential People issue.

Left: In the course of her activism, Burke has met her share of notable people including President Barack Obama, Gloria Steinem and Coretta Scott King.
Ben Mankiewicz has 120 seconds to seduce his audience. That’s all the time the prime-time host for Turner Classic Movies gets for his introductions.

“After you get to about 2:15, people are saying, ‘Go ahead and start the movie now,’” Mankiewicz told Variety in April.

His intros need to be entertaining, informative and strike a delicate balance between humor and reverence. His goal: tell a story in that time that could be a movie itself.

“We are programming for people who want to be told good stories,” he said. “Our job is to tell an engaging story and not merely a recitation of who was in it and where it was shot.”

Mankiewicz has been a host at the classic movie channel since 2003. Before that, he worked as a reporter in South Carolina and Florida. In the span of his career, Mankiewicz has introduced thousands of movies and conducted long-form interviews with more than 200 of the industry’s top talents, including Martin Scorsese, Sophia Loren, Quentin Tarantino and Ava DuVernay. This summer he also became a contributor to “CBS News Sunday Morning,” and last year he began hosting the American Society of Cinematographers Awards. Additionally, he is a regular co-host of the online political show “The Young Turks,” which he co-founded with Cenk Uygur in 2002.

Tonight, the Los Angeles Press Club is honoring Mankiewicz with the Luminary Award for Career Achievement.

Mankiewicz hails from Hollywood royalty—entertainment literally runs in his blood. His grandfather was Oscar-winning “Citizen Kane” screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz, his great-uncle was Oscar-winning writer-director Joseph Mankiewicz (“All About Eve”) and his cousin was writer-director Tom Mankiewicz (“Live and Let Die”). Another cousin, John Mankiewicz, is an executive producer on “House of Cards” and “Bosch.” His brother Josh works as a reporter for NBC’s “Dateline.”

Despite his family tree, it took Mankiewicz a few years to find his way to the entertainment industry. He grew up in Washington, D.C., where his father Frank was press secretary to Senator Robert F. Kennedy, presidential campaign manager for Senator George S. McGovern and chief of National Public Radio. Hollywood and movies were not on the agenda in the Mankiewicz household.

“We didn’t talk about show business around the dinner table,” he said. “Our job is to tell an engaging story and not merely a recitation of who was in it and where it was shot.”

Mankiewicz idolized his father, once telling a reporter, “My dad shaped everything that I do or am.”

Like his father, he went into journalism. He’s a graduate of Tufts University and the Columbia
University Graduate School of Journalism, and worked as a producer, reporter and anchor for television stations in Charleston, S.C. and Miami. He was twice named Best Anchor in South Florida, but eventually realized that journalism wasn’t for him. “I hated it,” he once told the New York Times. “The third time you knock on a mother’s door and ask how she feels that her teenage daughter was killed, you think, ‘How am I making anything better?’”

He didn’t like journalism, but he liked being on TV, so he auditioned for the hosting job at TCM. His love for classic movies dates back to when, as a history major, he took a film class at Tufts. “That was the beginning of an appreciation that there was a historical context to put these movies in, to think about them not just as old pieces of art but old pieces of art that were representative of a special time. That made it click with me,” he told the Los Angeles Times.

Since his debut on TCM on Sept. 6, 2003, Mankiewicz has made more than 20,000 on-air appearances. He was the second host ever to appear on the network, following in the footsteps of beloved former actor and film historian Robert Osborne, who had been the primary host of TCM since its inception in 1994.

“One I got the job, I had to do an enormous amount of catch-up work, watching and watching and watching films to try to get smart about them,” Mankiewicz explained to fashion designer/movie director Tom Ford over lunch a couple years ago. “TCM fans were resistant for a long time—years,” Mankiewicz said. “They revered Robert and they thought, ‘Who’s this young punk with a goatee?’”

Eventually, he managed to charm his way into their hearts. Nowadays, he has a solid social media following, speaks on TCM cruises, and hosts screenings and does interviews at the TCM Classic Film Festival, which takes place in Hollywood in the spring. “He is a beloved member of the family,” said Charles Tabesh, TCM’s senior vice president of programming, adding. “People grew to accept him.”

With Osborne’s passing in 2017, Mankiewicz has become the longest serving host on the vintage movie channel that celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. He is aware of the importance the channel has for its viewers. “TCM is my bread and butter, and that’s the job I care about most and the one I want to be associated with most,” he told the San Luis Obispo Tribune. “This is a TV channel that matters to people. It matters emotionally. It matters viscercally.”

In the age of superhero franchises and multi-million dollar blockbusters, Mankiewicz is using his enthusiasm and snarky charm to promote classic movies. “They mean something,” he said. “They represent a particularly American art form that ought to be appreciated and understood (in the same way we read Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and J.D. Salinger.”
Danny Trejo is a renaissance man. He's an iconic actor with hundreds of roles on his enviable Hollywood resume. He's a successful restaurateur with a growing taco and doughnut empire that shows no signs of cooling down. And even though he doesn't drink, he's got a beer out, too, a Mexican lager, of course.

There's another side of Trejo, one that many people may not be aware of. He has a long history of working as a counselor and helping others. Trejo grew up on the streets of Los Angeles, and despite spending the latter part of his early adulthood incarcerated, he has worked hard to maintain a drug-free and positive lifestyle. He has more than 50 years of sobriety, and ever since he was released from Soledad Prison, he has been involved in programs aimed at helping those who, like him, battled or are currently battling drug and alcohol addictions.

Trejo is being honored tonight with the Los Angeles Press Club’s Visionary Award, which was created in 2012 to honor an individual in the entertainment industry who uses a high-profile status to make the world a better place and to spread information about issues of freedom and importance.

It's been a long road for the 75-year-old Trejo, who as an actor is known for playing tough-guy roles such as a knife-throwing assassin in *Desperado* and a former Mexican Federale named Machete in the *Machete* and *Spy Kids* films.

Trejo was born in Echo Park in 1944. Influenced by a young uncle, he was off to a life of crime at an early age and did time in juvenile camps before eventually landing in Soledad and San Quentin state prisons for drugs and other crimes.

After being in and out of prison for about a decade, he completed a 12-step program that forever changed his life, as he began counseling others about the dangers of drugs.

That led to a call in 1985 to the set of the film *Runaway Train* to counsel one of the actors. There, his tough-guy appearance was noticed by the director, who wanted to put him in the film as an extra. But thanks to the boxing he had done while in prison, Trejo got a meatier role and was cast as a boxer, squaring off in the ring against the film’s star, Eric Roberts.
That led to a career with seemingly countless roles in film and TV. His work ranges from *Con Air* and the *From Dusk to Dawn* film series to small-screen appearances in "Sons of Anarchy," "Breaking Bad," "King of the Hill" and much more.

Trejo has other passions, which have led to business ventures. He has a love of food that came from his mother, a great cook who always dreamed of opening her own restaurant.

In 2012, Trejo was starring in a movie when producer Ash Shah noticed the actor's affinity for food.

“He noticed I liked eating good food. I don’t eat fast food and junk. And jokingly, or I don’t know if he was joking or not, he said ‘Danny why don’t you open a restaurant?’” Trejo said.

It took a few years, but in 2016 the first Trejo’s Tacos opened along a busy stretch of La Brea Avenue. There are now four Trejo’s Tacos locations, three Trejo’s Cantinas, and one Trejo’s Coffee & Donuts in the Los Angeles area. Additionally, thanks to a partnership with Live Nation, Trejo’s Tacos are at 24 local concert venues where his food is sold during approximately 500 shows per year. The taco shops have also had outposts at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival and Stagecoach Country.

Since Trejo likes healthy food, his chain is billed as healthier Mexican food with items such as jackfruit and cauliflower tacos, although there are still carnitas, barbacoa and Trejo’s favorite, carne asada, on the menu.

There’s another taco that he loves, too, but admitting it could ruin his tough-guy cred.

“Don’t tell anyone I love this, but give me a cauliflower taco anytime,” he laughed.

When not on a set or in one of his restaurants, Trejo might be found with one of his five rescue dogs. He has a long history as an animal advocate, and last year used an Instagram post—with a shot of himself posing, shirtless and crouching next to a pitbull—to help the country stop euthanizing dogs and cats by 2025.

In fact, Trejo appears as a celebrity supporter on the website of Best Friends—he is shown with his adopted dogs Cash and Penny Lane—a nonprofit that seeks to make animal shelters no-kill facilities. Tonight, Trejo will be introduced by U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas, another noted animal welfare advocate.

Restaurants and animal advocacy are not the only things outside of acting that commands his attention. Just like the famous tattoo of a woman in a sombrero that’s inked on...
his chest, Trejo wants to leave his permanent mark on the world of music by becoming the Mexican Berry Gordy.

“I’m just so passionate about music, all the way back to the ‘50s,” Trejo said this summer as he sat in his Sherman Oaks music studio a few days after the launch of his new record label called Trejo’s Music.

“Everything good that has happened to me has happened from helping people, and I started this record label to help people,” he said, explaining that one of his main goals is to support new artists.

Trejo started the record label with rapper and singer Baby Bash and producer Edward “E-Dub” Rios, who all want to turn Trejo’s Music into the Chicano Motown.

The first album under the label, “Danny Trejo Presents Chicano Soul Shop Volume 1,” features Trejo on the cover in a white tank top looking as tough as ever as he stands in front of a lowrider car. The album features music that encompasses a mix of genres, including soul, hip-hop, R&B and rock, with established artists such as Baby Bash, Frankie J, Chiquis Rivera and rock fusion band Puro Bandito. And in keeping with the goal of exposing new talent, there are up-and-coming artists including Joey Quiñones, Trish Toledo and Tarah New.

It’s a busy time for the devoted father of three, but Trejo doesn’t look to be slowing down. In fact, people might be even more focused on him in the coming months. That’s because Trejo’s colorful life and prolific career are chronicled in the new bio-documentary Inmate #1. It will be available early 2020.
Ann-Margret Has Had an Amazing Career, But Won’t Boast About It

BY ALEX BEN BLOCK

If Ann-Margret’s half century of accomplishments as an actress, singer, dancer, sex symbol, wife, friend, stepmom and inspiration to U.S. service members has made her a global icon, you won’t hear the lady brag about her accomplishments.

Sitting in the grand living room of her Los Angeles estate, Hedgerow, in a Cape Cod-style house, surrounded by 10 acres nestled into Benedict Canyon, Ann-Margret (Olsson Smith) recently shared a few memories.

Ann-Margret, 78, retains a timeless beauty—as well as her natural shyness. “Like all Swedes I was raised to be intensely modest,” she explained in her 1994 autobiography Ann-Margret, My Story.

She may be a Hollywood star, but she doesn’t act like one. During her 50-year marriage to Roger Smith, until his death in 2017, the couple rarely attended Hollywood parties and premieres, unless they were promoting a new project or favorite charity. She has been that way her entire career. Years ago, columnist Hedda Hopper dubbed her “Hollywood’s New Garbo.”

“She’s not boastful,” says her friend of over 25 years, and fellow Swedish-born movie star, Maud Adams. “She’s had this amazing career and yet she wouldn’t talk about it. She’s very respectful to the people she has worked with. She is very private.”

“I knew all about the Ann-Margret mystique,” Ann-Margret herself wrote. “I was said to be a recluse, a fragile woman consumed by fear, a tragic heroine controlled by a strong husband. I was an enigma to many people, including those closest to me and sometimes even to myself.”

She was glad to let Smith handle the business side while she focused on her art. But how could a shy woman could go on camera or the stage and perform brilliantly over many decades?

“I just become a different person on stage,” she says. “Before I perform, I’m like this,” she growls as she shows that her heart is beating wildly. “And then I go on and maybe by 10 minutes in I’m alright and I’m having a great time. I’m having a ball.”

Audiences all over the world have been having a ball as well thanks to her movies, such as Viva Las Vegas with Elvis Presley, Carnal Knowledge and Grumpy Old Men, or her TV specials, legendary Las Vegas shows and more than 50 albums. That is why the Los Angeles Press Club tonight is pre-
senting her with the Legend Award for Lifetime Achievement and Contributions to Society.

"Since she first blew fans away with her singing and dancing in Bye Bye Birdie to her more recent work on ‘Ray Donovan’ and The Kominsky Method,’ Ann-Margret has defined Hollywood glamour and stardom for generations of fans," said Press Club President Chris Palmeri.

She has been nominated for and won many awards, including three Golden Globes, two Emmys and two Oscar nominations. Still, one of the most meaningful came last month in Washington, D.C.

She received the inaugural Bob Hope Legacy Award presented by the late comic’s daughter, Linda Hope, for her longtime support of service members, and her USO tours.

"That is why we were honored to present the first-ever USO Bob Hope Legacy Award to Ann-Margret at last week’s ‘Backstage at the USO’ event in Washington, D.C. The award pays homage to Bob’s incomparable legacy and recognizes an individual who shares in his spirit of patriotism," said Dr. JD Couch, USO President & CEO.

"Ann-Margret calls the service members who have become part of the fabric of her career and life "my gentleman."

"I’ve been to a couple of her events in Las Vegas and she was always calling out the veterans and they cheer her on in the audience," said Adams. "Many of them show up for her. She has tremendous respect among the veterans for her devotion to them."

While Ann-Margret has remained the epitome of class, her life has not always been easy. She has dealt with alcoholism, infertility and the loss of her beloved parents. She also suffered a number of injuries over the years, the worst in 1972 when she fell 22 feet off a platform during an elaborate nightclub show in Lake Tahoe. She fell into a coma, her jaw was broken in two places, her left arm was broken, and she suffered a gash on her knee so severe doctors worried she wouldn’t dance again—if she survived.

"Showing her determination not just to live but to regain her life, only five months later Ann-Margret was back on stage in Las Vegas performing again, only this time without opening on a 22-foot-high platform."

"Another daunting challenge was a devastating illness that struck her husband, who was also her manager and best friend, beginning in 1980. Once the handsome hero of the ‘50s TV hit ‘77 Sunset Strip,’ Smith suffered from a neuromuscular disease, myasthenia gravis, for four decades. He later also contracted Parkinson’s disease. Through it all his wife was at his side."

Whether performing on a ship or traveling with her bandmates Johnny Rivers, Mickey Jones and Chuck Day, through Vietnam for 15 days in 1966, Ann-Margret feels a responsibility to perform for American soldiers. In 1968 she was asked to join Bob Hope’s tour to Vietnam.

"You are Loved,
Susan & Dan Gottlieb
Maud Adams & Charles Rubin"
Journalists aren’t just passive observers. We’re active storytellers who shape the way our communities see the world. The Los Angeles Press Club is where you can use those passions and talents to support our profession. It’s also where you can meet colleagues from diverse outlets, platforms and beats. The more we participate, the more we all get out of it. Here’s how you can stay involved.

JOIN: If you’re not already a member, signing up is simple at lapressclub.org. Most of us are full-time journalists, but there are other membership categories, too.

GIVE: As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we depend on your support. A journalism career can be glamorous, but it can also be tough, so please give what you can. You can help in other ways, too, such as working on events, joining committees, leading panels, writing copy for our website, etc. All support is appreciated.

ENTER: We host two annual awards competition, both of which lead to a blow-out gala: the Southern California Journalism Awards in the summer, and the National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards in the winter. Both attract hundreds of entries and the winners represent some of the best journalism in the country. Enter your own work or, if you’re impressed by a colleague, encourage him or her to enter. The SCJAs are awarded for work during a calendar year, and the NAEJs cover a yearly period starting July 1.

FOLLOW, SHARE, COMMENT: Like everyone else these days, we’re on Twitter (@LAPressClub) and Facebook (facebook.com/LAPC1913), so please follow/like us and ask your friends and followers to do the same. We want to share news and tips about journalism across Southern California. Message us if you see anything we should post.

LEAD: Our board of directors has 15 members, half of whom are up for election each November. While board members must be working journalists, anybody can volunteer to join a committee and help out. Our priority areas include Events/Programming, Membership, Financial/Fundraising and Ethics. We’re also always looking for creative ideas.

SUGGEST: A club is only what its members make of it, and we believe that the more dialogue, the better. Let us know what else we can and should be doing (info@lapressclub.org). Also, next time you’re frustrated by something going on in media, tell us what it is and if you have any ideas on how we can help. If you’re inspired by something happening in media, let us know. It might be something that the rest of our members should know about, too.

Now You Can Help the L.A. Press Club

In his final years, Ann-Margret turned down career opportunities to be with her husband, even passing on a chance to star in a TV series, said her manager Alan Margulies. In 2017, their children (she was stepmom to Smith’s three kids) and grandchildren threw a 50th anniversary party at Hedgerow. As the song “Got a Lot of Livin’ to Do” from Bye Bye Birdie played, a flash mob led by their daughter, granddaughters, family and friends, and about 50 other revelers, entered singing and dancing.

“Roger was smiling,” recalls Ann-Margret. “He had tears coming down his face. It was unbelievable, a wonderful, lovely, warm, happy experience. That was May 8th, and then on June 4th he passed away.”

She endured, she says, because of the love for her husband, and her deep spirituality and belief in an afterlife.

“I’ve said this many times,” says Ann-Margret. “If I thought that I would never see my mother or father or Roger again, that would be it. I couldn’t handle it. But I do know that I’m going to see them.”

What we know is that this legend’s legacy will live on in movies, TV shows and music for generations to come.
T he actor Robert Forster is being remembered by the Los Angeles Press Club this evening for many reasons. Among them:
He was the first host of the National Arts & Entertainment Awards.

When launched in 2008, the event was hardly the prestige happening it has grown into today. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Steve Allen Theater in East Hollywood and was barely attended or even noticed by the show biz community.

The following year we added a host. Bob did it because he had a deep respect for journalism and reporters, and because we wanted to help the Press Club honor entertainment journalism when no other organization did. There was no glory in it for him. He’d had an up and down, then very up again career, thanks to Quentin Tarantino, who cast him in *Jackie Brown.*

But no matter the state of his personal fortunes, Bob remained approachable and down-to-earth.

To his friends and acquaintances alike, he was a regular guy. No pretensions, no star attitude—just what you see is what you get. Maybe it was because of his working-class roots. To his colleagues, he was an actor’s actor.

Bob passed away in October at the age of 78. His passing is a loss for the entertainment industry, but it doesn’t compare to the sorrow of losing a great human being. He will be missed by everyone whose life he touched.

— Diana Ljungaeus
Celebrating the Star Power of True Stories

THE VERITAS AWARD HAS BECOME AN LA PRESS CLUB FIXTURE. MANY STRONG CONTENDERS ARE Vying FOR THE 2020 PRIZE.

IT ALL started with Spotlight.
The Tom McCarthy-directed feature about the Boston Globe’s investigative reporting team was the first-ever movie to receive the LA Press Club’s Veritas Award, honoring films based on or inspired by true stories and real people. Spotlight shows how a group of reporters uncovered one of the biggest sex scandals in the Catholic church.

Only weeks after taking home the Veritas Award in 2016, Spotlight won the Oscar for Best Picture.

In 2017, the club’s members honored Hidden Figures, celebrating female empowerment with the true story of three brilliant African-American women pushing the envelope at NASA in the 1960s. In 2018, Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks’ performances as Katharine Graham and Ben Bradlee earned The Post the Veritas Award. This year, Green Book convinced not only Press Club members, but the Academy as well, taking home the Oscar for Best Picture, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor for Mahershala Ali.

Movies based on true events have become increasingly popular and commercially successful in recent years. The LA Press Club is proud of its role in honoring filmmakers seeking to better our world and widen our horizons.

Real emotions and true stories provide the opportunity for us to reflect on our past as we’re forging our future.

The 21 films in contention for the 2020 Veritas Award include those that take us inside the Vatican (The Two Popes), back to 1960s Hollywood (Once Upon A Time in Hollywood) and halfway around the world (Hotel Mumbai). They reintroduce us to some of our greatest idols (Judy, Rocket Man, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood) and shine a spotlight on those whose courage has made the world a better place (Harriet, Bombshell, The Best of Enemies).

The 10 finalists will be announced in late December, with subsequent voting by the club’s 600 members to end in early January. A winner will be revealed as soon as the voting concludes.

These are the movies in competition:
What a year this has been for the Los Angeles Press Club! Last December, the 11th annual National Arts and Entertainment Journalism Awards drew a large crowd. Carol Burnett received the Legend Award for Lifetime Achievement and Contributions to Society, and regaled the audience during an interview with stories from her decades-long career. Also honored were former journalist and now L.A. crime author Michael Connelly, who received the Distinguished Storyteller Award for Excellence in Storytelling Outside Journalism; L.A. broadcaster George Pennacchio, given the Luminary Award for Career Achievement; and the late food guru Jonathan Gold, honored with the Impact Award for Journalism That Makes a Difference.

In the past year, the Club sponsored numerous events for journalists, including a private tour of the Ruth Bader Ginsburg exhibition at the Skirball Center. It was a treat for members to meet the curator of the show, as well as to take turns sitting in a replica of Justice Ginsburg’s desk.

Other highlights included the February Veritas Award, presented to Green Book. This marked the second time the prize has picked a future Oscar Best Picture winner. The Club also hosted screenwriter and producer Nick Vallelonga, along with several actors from the film, during a reception and Q&A.

June brought the 61st annual Southern California Journalism Awards, and this year’s ceremony was certainly one of the best ever. A packed house at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel honored figures including actor Henry Winkler, CBS sportscaster Jim Hill and CNN’s Nima Elbagir.

Bill Hader presented a prize to Winkler, who was honored for his work with dyslexic children, including the many books he has written (Winkler is himself dyslexic). It was amazing to see the spirit of camaraderie and admiration when basketball greats Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar took the stage with Hill. Elbagir’s inspirational words about tackling tough international stories made her a compelling recipient of the Daniel Pearl Award for Courage and Integrity in Journalism.

The year also brought the graduation of the first class of...
LA Press Club Fellows, a great group of talented young people who are well positioned for success in their careers.

July included a couple of great events. There was a Q&A with Tom O’Neill, author of Chaos: Charles Manson, the CIA and the Secret History of the Sixties, as well as a screening of This Changes Everything, the documentary on women in Hollywood with actress Geena Davis and directors Catherine Hardwicke, Kimberly Peirce and Tom Donahue in attendance.

Fall brought another standout book event, with the New York Times’ Robin Pogrebin and Kate Kelly, who co-wrote The Education of Brett Kavanaugh, and an event featuring a panel discussion on how to cover mass shootings.

Naturally, there were also numerous opportunities for members to get together throughout the year, including a journalist Mega Mixer with other journalism groups, an evening with the Asian American Journalists Association at their annual trivia bowl, and a couple of painting classes sponsored by the Club.

Members also got a private tour in October of the recently opened Walls exhibit at the Annenberg Space for Photography, another reminder of the rich cultural institutions in our backyard. With membership now standing at more than 600 journalists, the LA Press Club continues to impact journalism in the city, the country and beyond.

Expect the Club to be at the center of the proceedings during the year to come.

If you’re not yet a member, visit lapressclub.org. Information on how to join is on the homepage.
Meet the Second Class of LA Press Club Fellows

Every beginning journalist needs someone to open a door for him or her. Yet too many talented young reporters from communities historically excluded from the media might never get their opportunity with a reputable journalism outlet because they came up in worlds where they lack connections or mentors. The Los Angeles Press Club wants to change that.

Last year, the Club launched its Fellows program, selecting five talented, emerging journalists and pairing them with a veteran in the field, allowing the young journalists to actively work on securing a valuable employment opportunity. More than a mentoring relationship, this is a direct partnership between the Fellow and the journalism veteran to figure out how to launch a career and take concrete steps together.

We are excited to announce that after a successful first class, we have selected our second cohort of individuals for the 2020 Foot in the Door Fellowship.

This year’s Fellows will be working with accomplished Los Angeles journalists. The mentors are:

- Ashley Alvarado, Director of Community Engagement at KPCC, Southern California Public Radio
- Joanne Griffith, Assistant Managing Editor, Digital, “Marketplace”
- Sara Catania, Director of Journalism School Engagement at the Solutions Journalism Network, formerly with NBC.

Applications Being Accepted for Charles Rappleye Investigative Journalism Award

The Los Angeles Press Club is accepting applications for the Charles Rappleye Investigative Journalism Award. They are being awarded to freelance investigative reporters seeking to defray the cost of worthy projects.

The Charles Rappleye Award will be granted to one or more journalists twice a year, with the aim of supporting next-level research costs for ongoing projects. This could range from accessing databases to traveling for research to paying general expenses to keep on digging.

Preference for the grants will go to journalists working in Southern California who share the late Rappleye’s mission of telling deeply sourced stories. Rappleye, who died last year at 62, was widely known for his work at LA Weekly and LA CityBeat, and his byline appeared in numerous national and local outlets.

He specialized in unearthing the true stories behind overlooked social issues and misunderstood figures immersed in controversy. His 1996 expose of the media’s treatment of investigative reporter Gary Webb earned him a Los Angeles Press Club award for Criticism, and his 2006 book, Sons of Providence: The Brown Brothers, the Slave Trade, and the American Revolution was awarded the George Washington Book Prize. He also co-founded, with his wife Tulsa Kinney, the respected Los Angeles art magazine Artillery.

The Los Angeles Press Club Board of Directors is accepting fully tax-deductible donations to continue to build this fund in the spirit of rewarding freelance journalists who are dedicated to investigative reporting—this in an era of reduced news staffs and budgets. Learn more about applying for, or giving to, the award at lapressclub.org/about/charles-rappleye-investigative-journalism-award/.
Non-Fiction Nominees

Meredith Jordan
*Below the Line: Anatomy of a Successful Movie* 
Citation Press

*Below the Line* is narrative non-fiction about how major motion pictures are made today using one movie as a vehicle. The author embedded with the production of *Last Vegas* to tell the whole story of movie production, budget to box office. The stars are well known but here they play supporting roles. Instead the leads are the crew, the people behind the camera, artists and artisans, designers and creators, overseen, office and logistical support. Once the movie wrapped, the author went to ancillary businesses like Panavision and Western Costume, almost any creative company that did business with the movie.

Evelyn McDonnell, ed.

Women have played an essential and undeniable role in the evolution of popular music, and today, have a stronger influence on it than ever before. Yet, they remain woefully underrepresented in the musical canon. W.K. Stratton tells the fascinating history of the making of the movie and documents for the first time the extraordinary contribution of Mexican and Mexican-American actors and crew members to the movie’s success. Shaped by infamous director Sam Peckinpah, and starring such visionary actors as William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Edmond O’Brien, and Robert Ryan, the movie was also the product of an industry and a nation in transition. By 1968, when the movie was filmed, the studio system that had perpetuated the myth of the valiant cowboy in movies like *The Searchers* and *The Wild Bunch* had collapsed, and America was riled by Vietnam, race riots, and assassinations. The *Wild Bunch* spoke to America in its moment, when war and senseless violence seemed to define both domestic and international life.

Sarah Weinman
*The Real Lolita: The Kidnapping of Sally Horner and the Novel That Scandalized the World* 

In 1948, Sally Horner was just eleven years old when she was kidnapped by a man claiming to be an FBI agent. Seven years later, Vladimir Nabokov published *Lolita*, perhaps the most notorious novel of the twentieth century. Sarah Weinman’s investigation into how the two are connected is a thrilling, heartbreaking mix of literary scholarship, true crime writing, and expert storytelling.

Ramin Setoodeh
*Ladies Who Punch: The Explosive Inside Story of The View* 

When Barbara Walters launched *The View*, network executives told her that hosting it would tarnish her reputation. Instead, within ten years, she’d revolutionized morning TV and made household names of her co-hosts. The daily chatfest didn’t just comment on the news, it became the news. Based on unprecedented access, including interviews with nearly every host, award-winning journalist Ramin Setoodeh takes you backstage where the stars really spoke their minds. Setoodeh uncovers the truth about Star’s weight loss and wedding madness. Rosie’s feud with Trump. Whoopi’s toxic relationship with Rosie. Barbara’s difficulty stepping away. Plus, all the unseen hugs, snubs, tears.
JUDGES

There are no formal criteria for the judging of the National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards. The rules of the competition and the definitions for each category, which are described at lapressclub.org, act as the sole guidelines. Our distinguished judges decide which submissions qualify as third-place, second-place and first-place winners.

Beth Barrett
Beth Barrett is a freelance writer living in Cambridge, MA. For more than two decades she was an award-winning investigative reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News and until recently for publications like the LA Weekly. She graduated from Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA, and received a master’s from Mount St. Mary’s College in Los Angeles. She previously worked at the Anchorage Times and the Bellingham Herald.

Andy Coughlan
Andy Coughlan teaches journalism at Lamar University where he is advisor to the University Press, the student newspaper. He is editor of the award-winning ISSUE, a monthly arts magazine, and has won multiple awards for his arts reviews and features. Coughlan is also an actor, director and playwright, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America as well as a visual artist who has exhibited paintings widely, including seven solo exhibitions.

Debra Fraser
Debra Fraser is General Manager of KMIV, NPR for Wichita. She has 20 years experience as a news reporter and news director in Houston. Ms. Fraser is responsible for creating the statewide Lone Star Awards competition in Texas for news and PR communicators. She leads her station in Wichita, Kansas, with the theory that news coverage and smart conversations can only make a community even better.

Bob Ladendorf
Bob Ladendorf has been a copy boy, legislative proofreader, freelance newspaper and magazine writer, associate editor of a public affairs magazine, state governmental communications executive, and primary researcher for author M.G. Lord’s book on Elizabeth Taylor, The Accidental Feminist. He has received nine awards for governmental communications. Ladendorf has studied journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia, received a B.A. in Communications from the University of Illinois-Springfield, and graduated with an M.A. in Communication Arts (with a concentration in film study) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Melissa Lalam
Melissa Lalam currently designs and produces elearning courses for LinkedIn and Lynda.com. She has more than 25 years experience in journalism and education, serving as the managing editor of the Los Angeles Daily News before becoming a journalism professor at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). During her time at CSUN, she was recognized as the Journalism Educator of the Year by the California Journalism Education Coalition. She holds degrees in Communications from U.C. Santa Barbara and a Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology from CSU Fullerton.

Sandy Maxx
Sandy Maxx is a television, radio, podcast and live event host. At Milwaukee PBS, Sandy hosts the TV series “The Arts Page” and produces soft news features, including a story about her RNAsocial experience. She is the recipient of the 2019 James T. Tiedge Memorial Award for professional excellence, ethics and social responsibility in broadcasting from Marquette University’s Diederich College of Communication.

Isabella Nilsson
Veteran journalist and museum executive Isabella Nilsson is the CEO and Permanent Secretary of The Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm. Earlier in her career she was the arts and entertainment editor for several Swedish newspapers and magazines, as well as a teacher and lecturer at the University of Gothenburg. Nilsson has co-authored a number of books and is a member of the International Art Critics Association, AICA, ICOM and the Swedish publicist organization Publicistklubben.

Jacob Pucci
Jacob Pucci is a reporter and critic covering food, music and entertainment for The Post-Standard | syracuse.com. His work has been honored by the Syracuse Press Club, New York State Associated Press Association and others.

Rob Long
Rob Long is a writer and producer in Hollywood. He began his career writing and producing TV’s long-running “Cheers.” From 2016 to 2018, he was the Executive Producer and Showrunner of “Kevin Can Wait” starring Kevin James on CBS Television. He is a contributing editor of National Review, and his weekly radio commentary, “Martini Shot,” is broadcast on the Los Angeles public radio station KCRW, and is distributed nationally. His most recent book is Bigly: Donald Trump in Verse, published in October 2017 by Regnery.

Leslie Simmons
Leslie Simmons is an award-winning journalist and communications professional in Los Angeles. She spent 15 years as a journalist, reporting for several print and online publications, including The Hollywood Reporter, Daily Journal, City News Service and Inside.com. She served on the board of the Society of Professional Journalists, Los Angeles Chapter and was president for two terms. In 2009, she switched gears and joined the communications team for the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the merged SAG-AFTRA. She is currently a Field Representative & Political Coordinator for The Animation Guild, IATSE Local 839 and teaches Communications at the annual Rocky Mountain Labor School. Leslie has won multiple awards from the Los Angeles Press Club, International Labor Communications Association and Public Relations Society of America. She earned a BA in Journalism from Long Island University. Brooklyn and an MA in Communication & Leadership from Gonzaga University.

Kevin Steele
Kevin Steele ranks as one of America’s most experienced and polished broadcast journalists, with a career spanning over 24 years. He’s served in larger TV markets like Little Rock, and also in one of our nation’s smallest markets in Kirksville, Missouri, near the cattle farm where he was raised. For more than a decade, Steele has been anchoring Texas news— in Lubbock, Tyler, Harlingen, Waco and Corpus Christi. It’s made him one of the state’s most seasoned reporters and produced his profound affection for Texas.

Chris Woodyard
Chris Woodyard is Los Angeles bureau chief and an assignment editor in the Money section of USA TODAY. Over two decades at USA TODAY, he has also covered cars, airlines and retail. Woodyard also worked for the Houston Chronicle in its Washington bureau, the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Herald Examiner, Associated Press and Las Vegas Sun. He is a two-term president of the Los Angeles Press Club and member of the board of directors of the Motor Press Guild. He is a journalism graduate of California State University Long Beach.

Antonio Martin Guirado
Antonio Martin Guirado is a project manager in Madrid, Spain, for EFE News Services, the fourth largest newswire service worldwide. He was EFE’s U.S. West Coast Correspondent for ten years. As such he oversaw the cultural and social events happening in Los Angeles. He has covered the Academy Awards, Golden Globes, the Emmys and the Grammys, as well as the Olympic Games, NBA Finals and Pan-American Games.

Lamar University where he is advisor to the

Chris Woodyard
Chris Woodyard is Los Angeles bureau chief and an assignment editor in the Money section of USA TODAY. Over two decades at USA TODAY, he has also covered cars, airlines and retail. Woodyard also worked for the Houston Chronicle in its Washington bureau, the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Herald Examiner, Associated Press and Las Vegas Sun. He is a two-term president of the Los Angeles Press Club and member of the board of directors of the Motor Press Guild. He is a journalism graduate of California State University Long Beach.

Bob Long
Bob Long is a writer and producer in Hollywood. He began his career writing and producing TV’s long-running “Cheers.” From 2016 to 2018, he was the Executive Producer and Showrunner of “Kevin Can Wait” starring Kevin James on CBS Television. He is a contributing editor of National Review, and his weekly radio commentary, “Martini Shot,” is broadcast on the Los Angeles public radio station KCRW, and is distributed nationally. His most recent book is Bigly: Donald Trump in Verse, published in October 2017 by Regnery.

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Veteran journalist and museum executive Isabella Nilsson is the CEO and Permanent Secretary of The Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm. Earlier in her career she was the arts and entertainment editor for several Swedish newspapers and magazines, as well as a teacher and lecturer at the University of Gothenburg. Nilsson has co-authored a number of books and is a member of the International Art Critics Association, AICA, ICOM and the Swedish publicist organization Publicistklubben.

Jacob Pucci
Jacob Pucci is a reporter and critic covering food, music and entertainment for The Post-Standard | syracuse.com. His work has been honored by the Syracuse Press Club, New York State Associated Press Association and others.

Rob Long
Rob Long is a writer and producer in Hollywood. He began his career writing and producing TV’s long-running “Cheers.” From 2016 to 2018, he was the Executive Producer and Showrunner of “Kevin Can Wait” starring Kevin James on CBS Television. He is a contributing editor of National Review, and his weekly radio commentary, “Martini Shot,” is broadcast on the Los Angeles public radio station KCRW, and is distributed nationally. His most recent book is Bigly: Donald Trump in Verse, published in October 2017 by Regnery.

Isabella Nilsson
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Caroline Framke, Variety, “Hannah Gadsby Found Pride Through ‘An Absence of Shame’”
Michael Idato, The Sydney Morning Herald and Melbourne Age, “‘Power Play: Robin Wright on Female Ascedancy’”
Charles McNulty, Los Angeles Times, “‘Dianne Wiest Finds Meaning in Beckett’”
Jason Zinoman, New York Times, “‘Ellen DeGeneres is Not as Nice as You Think’”
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Los Angeles Times, “Fäviken’s last suppers: Magnus Nilsson to close his celebrated restaurant”
Brendan Kennedy, Caroline Pah, Scott Pierce, Dexter Thomas, VICE News, “Movie Pass”
Kacey Montoya, Paul Sanchez, KTLA 5 News, “Play Starring Military Veterans Puts PTSD in the Spotlight in Culver City”
Variety, “The Dirty Business of Movie Theater Janitorial Services”

E13. HEADLINE (PRINT)
Sandro Moretti, Hollywood International Filmaker Magazine, “Cannes You Feel the Love Tonight”
Thomas Floyd, Washington Post Express, “A statue of limitations: Spielberg’s push to emit Netflix from the Oscars has led to fierce debate”

J4. ACTION PHOTO
Donna Balancia, California Rocker, “Dave Grohl plays to the crowd at Cal Jam”

F3. HARD NEWS FEATURE – OVER 5 MINUTES (TV/VIDEO)
KQED, “Artbound - Día de Los Muertos/Day of the Dead”
KCET, “SoCal Scene - The Old Place”

E1. GENERAL NEWS (PRINT)
Anousha Sakoui, Bloomberg Businessweek, “Hollywood Brace for Collateral Damage From Trade War With China”
Deborah Vankin, Los Angeles Times, “At LACMA, new urgency to finish raising $650 million for the new museum building”
Deborah Vankin, Los Angeles Times, “David Hockney’s $90.3-million pool painting obliterates auction record for work by a living artist”

F1. NEWS (TV/VIDEO)
Alex Cohen, Spectrum News 1, “Catherine Hardwicke Interview”
George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, KABC-TV, “The Girl on the Balcony”
George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, KABC-TV, “Restoring Tomorrow”

Tom Walters and Liam Hyland, CTV - Canadian Television, “The Queen of Soul”

LUMINARY AWARD— BEN MANKIEWICZ, INTRODUCTION BY JOSH MANKIEWICZ

E12. COLUMNIST (PRINT)
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, The Hollywood Reporter
Brett Callwood, LA Weekly
Vict Gerami, Writer & Editor
David Jerome, Orange County Register
Michael Schneider, Variety

H8. COMMENTARY ANALYSIS/TREND (FILM, ONLINE)
Allen Barra, Truthdig, “Mulholland Drive Is David Lynch’s ‘Ulysses’”
Chris Gardner, The Hollywood Reporter, “From ‘A Star is Born’ to ‘Ben is Back’: When the Oscars Join My Recovery Group”
Owen Gleiberman, Variety, “‘Why Tom Cruise’s Stunt Fever Has Become the Measure of His Stardom.’”

H9. COMMENTARY ANALYSIS/TREND (TV, ONLINE)
Mary Murphy and Michele Willens, TheWrap, “Is Trump fatigue killing any movie or show with a political edge?”
Patricia Puentes, CNET en Español / CNET, “House of Cards season 6: Robin Wright should have taken over sooner”
Jenelle Riley, Variety, “A Fat Girl’s Take on ‘Shrill’”

H10A. COMMENTARY ANALYSIS/TREND (BOOKS/ARTS, ONLINE)
Allen Barra, Truthdig, “The Trickster King and the Endtime Literalist”
Paul Hodgins, Voice of OC, “Is It Time for Local Arts Leadership to Reflect a Changing World?”
Mark Kernes, AVN Media Network/AVN.com, “So... Now That Batman Has Shown His Dick, What Will XIX Do?”
David Matorin, Truthdig, “Venice Biennale Artists Foresee a World on the Brink”
Jordan Riefe, Truthdig, “Black Is Beautiful ... Brathwaite”

H10B. COMMENTARY ANALYSIS/TREND (PERFORMING ARTS/CULTURE, ONLINE)
Roger Cheng, CNET, “Cosplay Movies”
Paul Hodgins, Voice of OC, “One Year After Opening, is Argyros Plaza Really Working?”

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Tarana Burke, Quentin Tarantino, Danny Trejo, Ben Mankiewicz and Ann-Margret
And the finalists and winners of the Awards for Editorial Excellence

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Janet Nepales
Ruben Nepales

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With the Golden Gun

Store.

feature film for CBS’s Cinemascope, starring in

Christian Licorice

numerous television commercials. Her acting career began with a

regular performer in NBC’s drama “Chicago Story.”

Southern California Journalism Awards.

lades including Emmy, Golden Mike, AP and Edward R. Murrow

awards. He was named Television Lawyer of the Year in 2013 at the

South Carolina Journalism Awards.

Robert Kovacik, Co-Host

Robert Kovacik, a past president of the Los Angeles Press

Club, is an anchor/reporter for NBC in Southern California’s

newscasts at 5, 6 and 11 p.m. Kovacik joined the station in 2004

and is known for bringing a local perspective to international events.

Kovacik was NBC’s correspondent for the 2013 Papal Conclave in Rome and was

assigned to the Summer Olympics in London.

One of his most compelling live shots captured an extensive

manhunt for an alleged murderer. The suspect suddenly appeared

and surrendered to Kovacik live on air. Kovacik has received accolades

including Emmy, Golden Mike, AP and Edward R. Murrow

awards. He was named Television Lawyer of the Year in 2013 at the

Southern California Journalism Awards.

Rosanna Lisa Arquette

Born in New York City to a show business family and growing up in a Bohemian atmosphere of

gypsy-like travel and communes, Rosanna Lisa Arquette began acting as a child. She’s part of a third

generation of Arquette show business royalty; she’s cousin to David Arquette, the lead in “Django

Unchained,” and her siblings, Patricia, David, the late Alexis, and Richard, all working actors.

Rosanna has appeared in more than 70 films, including Quentin Taran-

ton’s Pulp Fiction. She won the BAFTA Award for Best Supporting Actress

for the 1985 hit, Desperately Seeking Susan. She also has appeared in

numerous TV shows, including “Ray Donovan” and earned an Emmy

nomination for “The Executioner’s Song.” She develops projects for both

television and film through her company, Flower Child Productions.

Her acting career began with a regular

performer in NBC’s drama “Chicago Story.”

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas is currently serving his 4th term as a U.S. Congressman for California’s 29th District

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the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Born in Pacoima, Rep. Cárdenas was raised by

immigrant parents and has 10 brothers and sisters. He has an engineering degree and a business background.

He lives with his wife, Norma, and their children in

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Los Angeles’ KCAL-TV, where from 1991 to 1993 he covered all elections

and breaking news events. She joined the team

and traveled across the country to cover major

and breaking news events. She joined the team

and traveled across the country to cover major

stories she has covered are Hurricane Katrina; the

gative reports and clever features. Among the

stories he has covered are Hurricane Katrina, the

1996 and 2000 presidential campaigns; the ter-

men of reports involving entertainment, health and social programs that

of reports involving entertainment, health and social programs that

explore local history. Maxwell also co-hosted

an evening of “The Lion King” on stage in its homeland, George did a series

of teleplays.

As emcee for the LA Press Club’s two awards

shows since 2010, Jack Maxwell, who grew up in

South Boston, served as host for Travel Channel

“Beeze Traveler.” He embarked on a global

escape to taste local homemade drinks and explore local history. Maxwell also co-hosted the two

Travel Channel shows in 2016 and 2017.

Before traveling the world, Maxwell worked in

television, radio and film. He is also a member of the

Critics’ Choice Award from The Broadcast Film Critics Association, North America’s largest
critic group.

While on assignment in Southern California in 2007 to cover the open-
ing of “The Lion King” on stage in its homeland, George did a series of
reports involving entertainment, health and social programs that
empower the women of South Africa with connections here in South-

Africa.

Veronica Arquette

Veronica Arquette is a multiple Emmy winner and a

reporter for Entertainment Tonight. Arquette has appeared on

numerous telecasts covering high-profile missing person cases and the

role play in story selection. Before joining “Dateline,” Markiewicz

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George Pennacchio

George Pennacchio is the entertainment reporter for ABC4 Eyewitness News and host of the station’s Oscars specials. He joined ABC4

in 1996.

During his broadcasting career, George has

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Jessica Vilchis
A co-host of NBC4’s “California Live,” Jessica Vilchis provides perspectives on travels and trends in the state. Joining NBC4 in 2009, she also hosts the “Ski Trippin’” and “Road Trippin’” shows.

Vilchis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Moving to Los Angeles in 2005, she worked for the Style Network as a red carpet and fashion correspondent and as a commercial actor. In 2012, she hosted NBC Sports Group’s “Team USA’s Road to London.”

Fluent in Spanish and understanding Russian, she credits her Mexican and Russian heritage for her love and interest in different cultures.

Comic Alonzo Bodden’s material is “cynically good natured,” but the older he gets, the less good natured it’ll be. “What can I say? The stupid out there is wearing the man down,” he quips.

Known for his social and political commentary, Bodden, who won Season 3 on NBC’s “Last Comic Standing,” is a regular on NPR’s “Wait Wait…Don’t Tell Me” and “Comedy Congress,” as well as being a panelist on the Game Show Network’s “Mind of a Man.” His first big comedy break came when he was on the “New Faces of Comedy” showcase at the industry festival, Just For Laughs in Montreal.

In 2011, he starred in the comedy special “Who’s Paying Attention?” on Showtime, released a DVD, and hosts a podcast of the same name. That same year, he was a panelist on the syndicated show “Inside the Vault” and voiced the character of Thunderon in the Power Rangers movie. In 2016, he starred in his second Showtime comedy special, “Historically Correct,” that was taped in Chicago.

A gearhead, car and motorcycle lover and expert, Bodden hosted Speed Channel’s “101 Cars You Must Drive” and “America’s Worst Driver” on the Travel Channel, made numerous appearances on CNBC’s “Leno’s Garage” and has hosted the Science Channel’s series “How to Build Everything.” He also has made the rounds on the late night television circuit, including appearances on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” and “Late Night with Conan O’Brien.”

His film credits include Scary Movie 4, The Girl Next Door, and Bringing Down the House starring Steve Martin and Queen Latifah.

Bodden has traveled around the world, entertaining USO troops from Iraq to Greenland with his brand of comedy. His latest special, “Heavy Lightweight,” appears on Amazon Prime Video.

ELENA GIBSON has created unique art pieces for the Los Angeles Press Club and the National A&E Journalism Awards for nine years. She has been one of Sweden’s foremost glass artists for more than 30 years creating beautiful glass art pieces, as well as jewelry and everyday objects at her studio in the heart of historic Gothenburg.

Gibson studied at the Glass School at Orrefors and at Seattle’s Pilchuck Glass School under the tutelage of legendary glass artist Dale Chihuly. In addition to traditional glass blowing, she works with a technique known as “fusing and slumping.” She has a unique knack for combining the intense nuances of colored glass with 24 carat gold and/or neon. Recently she has mixed screen-printed photos and poetry into her art pieces. Her playfulness combined with a deeper spirituality has garnered attention in Sweden. She has been exhibited in many countries including Japan, Norway and Germany.

For the Distinguished Storyteller Award recipient, she wore Tarantino’s films through the bubble.

For the Legend Award recipient, she has designed a howling wolf silhouetted in red and bathed in the reflection of trees. The purple background is within the outline of an eye.

“Thank you for your generosity,” Gibson said. “I wanted it to symbolize the spirit of generosity and the essence of altruism. The passion of red and the harmony of purple.”

Your Hosts and Guests for the Evening…

Glory and Glass

From left to right, the awards are: Legend Award, goblets for Impact and Luminary Awards, Visionary Award and Distinguished Storyteller Award.
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Design Director Candice Ota
Contributors Alex Ben Block, Scott Feinberg, Deepa Fernandes, Felicia Gaddis, Bob Ladendorf, Diana Ljungaeus, Frank Megna, Claudia Oberst, Chris Palmeri, Lisa Richwine, Adam Rose, Jill Stewart
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GALA PRODUCER
Diana Ljungaeus is Executive Director of The Los Angeles Press Club. She began her career as a cub reporter in Sweden at the age of fifteen. She has lived and worked in the U.S. since 1996. Her background has run the gamut from researcher to reporter and editor, to story/script writer and finally to theater and multimedia producer. She is a founding member of the not-for-profit educational theater and film production company Opening Minds Productions.

She has produced the National A&E Journalism Awards since its inception, as well as the Annual Southern California Journalism Awards for more than a decade.

Special Thanks to:
Khadijah Austin; Alex Brod, Empire Diamonds; Barbara Gasser; Gloria Hinojosa; Taryn Jacobs, TCM; Alan Margulies, Hernan Berlese and Jimmy Wu, Millennium Biltmore Hotel; Kevin Martinez, KB Collectibles; Jon Regardie; Katherine Rowe; Maureen Solomon (research), Rick Najera (video for Mr. Trejo)

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