

# Telluride Film Festival

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## 37th TELLURIDE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2010 GUEST DIRECTOR MICHAEL ONDAATJE

June 30, 2010

BERKELEY, CA – Telluride Film Festival (September 3-6, 2010), presented by National Film Preserve LTD., is proud to announce its 2010 Guest Director, Michael Ondaatje. The celebrated writer has been invited to select a series of films to present at the 37<sup>th</sup> Telluride Film Festival. The Guest Director program is sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Each year Festival directors Tom Luddy, Gary Meyer and Julie Huntsinger select one of the world's great film enthusiasts to join them in the creation of the program lineup. The Guest Director serves as a key collaborator in the Festival's programming decisions, bringing new ideas and overlooked films to Telluride.

"When we first met with Michael to invite him to be our Guest Director, his enthusiasm was infectious and we knew we had made a perfect choice," said Tom Luddy.

Michael Ondaatje, best known as a novelist and author of *The English Patient*, has a body of work also encompassing memoir, poetry, music and film. He published a volume of memoir, entitled *Running in the Family*, in 1983. His collections of poetry include *There's a Trick With a Knife I'm Learning To Do* (1979); *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid: Left Handed Poems* (1981); *The Cinnamon Peeler: Selected Poems* (1989); and *Handwriting: Poems* (1998). His first novel, *Coming Through Slaughter* (1976), is a fictional portrait of jazz musician Buddy Bolden. *The English Patient*

(1992) won the Booker Prize for Fiction and was made into an Academy Award-winning film in 1996. In 2000, Ondaatje was awarded the Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize, the Prix Medicis, the Governor General's Award for Fiction, and the Giller Prize for his novel *Anil's Ghost*. Ondaatje's most recent non-fiction work is *The Conversations: Walter Murch & the Art of Editing Film* (2002). His latest novel is entitled *Divisadero* (2007). He has directed two documentaries, *Sons of Poetry* (1970) and *The Clinton Special: A Film About The Farm Show* (1971).

Julie Huntsinger remembers, "The ideas were already flowing in that first meeting. In the following weeks he asked us to help secure prints for him to screen movies fondly remembered as well as those he had heard about and was curious to consider."

"The range of Michael's choices will present audiences with an enthralling program of surprises and discoveries that cover an incredible range of styles, eras and subjects. His introductions promise to be enlightening," added Gary Meyer.

Past Guest Directors include Alexander Payne, Salman Rushdie, Peter Bogdanovich, B. Ruby Rich, Phillip Lopate, Errol Morris, Bertrand Tavernier, John Boorman, John Simon, Buck Henry, Laurie Anderson, Stephen Sondheim, G. Cabrera Infante, Peter Sellars, Don DeLillo, J.P. Gorin, Edith Kramer and Slavoj Zizek.

In keeping with Telluride Film Festival tradition, Ondaatje's film selections, along with the rest of the Telluride lineup will be kept secret and unveiled on Opening Day, September 3, 2010.

Festival passes are now available.

For more information about Telluride Film Festival, visit:

[www.telluridefilmfestival.org](http://www.telluridefilmfestival.org).

#### **About Telluride Film Festival**

The prestigious Telluride Film Festival ranks among the world's best film festivals and is an annual gathering of cinema enthusiasts, filmmakers, critics and industry insiders. It is considered a major launching ground for the fall season's most talked-about films. Co-founded in 1974 by Tom Luddy, James Card and Bill and Stella Pence, Telluride Film Festival, nestled in the beautiful mountain town of Telluride, Colorado, is a four-day international educational event celebrating the art of film. The Festival's long-standing commitment is to join filmmakers and film connoisseurs together to experience great cinema. The exciting schedule, kept secret until Opening Day, consists of film debuts with filmmakers presenting their works, special Guest Director programs, three major Tributes to guest artists and remarkable treasures from the past. Festival headquarters are in Berkeley, California.

#### **About Our Sponsors**

Telluride Film Festival is supported by Turner Classic Movies, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Starz Entertainment, NBC Universal, Omaha Steaks, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, Stella Artois, Southwest Airlines, New Sheridan Hotel, Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association, Chamisal Vineyards, National Endowment for the Arts, Telluride Alpine Lodging, Kodak, Telluride Foundation, Time Warner Cable, The Hollywood Reporter, Boston Light and Sound, among others.

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