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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 14, 2017

ICONIC ACTOR SIR PATRICK STEWART TO BE HONORED AT 53RD CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Renowned Performer will be Awarded the
Gold Hugo Career Achievement Award at the Festival

CHICAGO -- The 53rd Chicago International Film Festival, presented by Cinema/Chicago, announced today that film and theater legend **Sir Patrick Stewart** will be honored with the **Gold Hugo Career Achievement Award**.

The award will be presented on October 25, 2017 at a special event during the Festival to be held at the AMC River East 21 in Chicago. The Tribute to Patrick Stewart will be a one-of-a-kind salute to a towering figure of stage and screen and will feature an on-stage discussion with the actor showcasing highlights and clips from his decades-spanning career.

Earlier this year, the Emmy- and Golden Globe-nominated actor earned some of the best reviews of his career as Professor Charles Xavier in *Logan*, reprising a role he originated in the first installment of the *X-Men* franchise and has played off and on for 17 years. Although perhaps best known for his turn as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* films and television series, Stewart has amassed a rich and wildly varied résumé that includes riotous comedy (*Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, *L.A. Story*), heartfelt drama (*Match*), dark cult cinema (*Green Room*), and elevated English productions (*I, Claudius*). He is also a three-time Olivier Award winner and an Honorary Associate Artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company. In 2001, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth conferred on Stewart the order of the Officer of the British Empire (O.B.E.), and in 2010, he received a knighthood for his services to Drama.

“For decades, Patrick Stewart has captivated audiences with riveting performances in a variety of films, television series, and stage productions,” said **Michael Kutza**, Founder and CEO of the Chicago International Film Festival. “Though best known for his performances in the *Star Trek* and *X-Men* franchises, audiences have come to know that Stewart brings extraordinary complexity to all of his performances, regardless of genre.”

First awarded to King Vidor at the first Chicago International Film Festival, the Gold Hugo Career Achievement Award is given to an individual in cinema that has made a significant impact with their filmography and performances. Over the years, it has been awarded to numerous directors and screen legends, including director Robert Zemeckis, director Sydney Pollack, actor Robin Williams, actor Susan Sarandon, and, most recently, to actors Helen Mirren and Jane Fonda, among others.



CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Oct. 12 - 26, 2017

Presented by Cinema/Chicago

53
NEWS

A Tribute to Patrick Stewart will be held on Wednesday, October 25, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the AMC River East 21. Tickets go on sale to Cinema/Chicago members on Wednesday September 20 and to the general public on Friday October 22. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling 312-332-FILM (3456) or online at chicagofilmfestival.com.

The 53rd Chicago International Film Festival is October 12-26. A sneak peek of films may be found [here](#). The complete lineup and schedule will be announced September 18. Passes are on sale now at chicagofilmfestival.com. Media interested in covering the Festival should fill out the [Press Accreditation Application](#).

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About Cinema/Chicago

Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a year-round non-profit arts and education organization dedicated to fostering better communication between people of diverse cultures through the art form of the moving image. In addition to the [Chicago International Film Festival](#), Cinema/Chicago's programs include: [International Screenings Program](#), [Chicago International Television Festival](#), [CineYouth Festival](#), and year-round [Education Program](#). Celebrating its 53rd edition October 12-26, 2017, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival.

Festival Sponsors and Partners

The 53rd Chicago International Film Festival's sponsors include Official Airline: American Airlines; Premiere Sponsors: AARP, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Wintrust Community Banks; Participating Sponsors: Chicago Line Cruises, TV5Monde, Wansas Tequila; Education Sponsors: Allstate Insurance Company, HBO; Event Partners: AMC Theaters, Sound Investment AV; Hotel Partners: Ambassador Chicago, Conrad Chicago, The Whitehall Hotel; Platinum Media Partners: National CineMedia (NCM); Gold Media Partners: WTTW11, WBBM, WXRT; Silver Media Partners: WBEZ, Firewatch Films; Special support provided by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the National Endowment of the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Illinois Film Office, Chicago Film Office, and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).