



The
Chicago
International
Film Festival

56th Chicago International Film Festival
October 14-25, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 22, 2020

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**56TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ACTRESS
KATE WINSLET**

THE FESTIVAL'S CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE
ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF
AMMONITE ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2020

Chicago, IL (September 22, 2020) – Artistic Director **Mimi Plauché** announces that seven-time Academy Award nominee **Kate Winslet**, winner of Best Actress for 2008's *The Reader*, will be presented with the **Career Achievement Award** at the **56th Chicago International Film Festival**. A **Tribute to Kate Winslet** takes place in conjunction with the Festival's Chicago Premiere of *Ammonite*, **Saturday, October 17, 6:30pm at Pilsen's ChiTown Movies, 2343 South Throop Street.**

Winslet's latest feature, a striking historical romance, sees Winslet take on the role of fossil hunter Mary Anning who finds an unlikely soulmate in the wife of a wealthy aristocrat (Saoirse Ronan). The tribute and a virtual presentation of the award will take place in conjunction with *Ammonite*'s Saturday night showing at ChiTown Movies.

"Over her brilliant career, Kate Winslet has proven herself to be a formidable talent and creative force, creating dynamic, unforgettable roles that have continued to resonate with audiences around the world. Ever since her stunning, memorable performance in *Heavenly Creatures*, which the Festival was proud to showcase in 1994, she has repeatedly shown a fearlessness and vulnerability that has only grown more intense and impressive over the years," said Plauché. "Kate Winslet is a magnetic presence and a masterful chameleon, and we are honored to pay tribute to her singular talent and extraordinary body of work."

The **56th Chicago International Film Festival** takes place **Wednesday, October 14 - Sunday, October 25, 2020** in a hybrid format, with both virtual and drive-in screenings of more than 50 feature films and nine short film programs. Tickets for *Ammonite*, including A Tribute to Kate Winslet, showing exclusively at ChiTown Movies drive-in, *go on sale to Cinema/Chicago*

members on Wednesday, September 23; general public tickets go on sale Monday, September 28 at chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/tickets.

About Ammonite

In the 1840s, acclaimed self-taught paleontologist Mary Anning (Winslet) works alone on the wild and brutal Southern English coastline of Lyme Regis. The days of her famed discoveries behind her, she now hunts for common fossils to sell to rich tourists to support herself and her ailing widowed mother. When one such tourist, Roderick Murchison (James McAvoy), arrives in Lyme on the first leg of a European tour, he entrusts Mary with the care of his young wife Charlotte (Saoirse Ronan), who is recuperating from a personal tragedy. Mary, whose life is a daily struggle on the poverty line, cannot afford to turn him down but, proud and relentlessly passionate about her work, she clashes with her unwanted guest. They are two women from utterly different worlds. Yet despite the chasm between their social spheres and personalities, Mary and Charlotte discover they can each offer what the other has been searching for: the realization that they are not alone. It is the beginning of a passionate and all-consuming love affair that will defy all social bounds and alter the course of both lives irrevocably. Written and directed by Francis Lee (*God's Own Country*).

Kate Winslet



Kate Winslet. Photo by Frederic Auerbach
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Academy Award®-winning actress Kate Winslet has brought to life some of cinema's most captivating and memorable roles. Her résumé consists of critically and commercially acclaimed work as well as a span of awards and honours that illustrate Winslet's talent and solidify her a permanent place in cinema history.

Winslet won her first Academy Award®, after a stunning past five nominations, for her role as Hannah Schmitz in Stephen Daldry's 2008 ***The Reader***. Winslet also won a Golden Globe®, SAG, BAFTA, and Critics' Choice Award, among many others, for the role. She also starred that year in ***Revolutionary Road***, directed by Sam Mendes, which reteamed her with *Titanic* co-star Leonardo DiCaprio. Winslet won a Golden Globe® and received many nominations for her portrayal of April Wheeler.

At the age of 17, Kate made an international name for herself in Peter Jackson's feature film ***Heavenly Creatures***. She followed that in 1995 with her role as Marianne Dashwood in Ang Lee's ***Sense and Sensibility***. Winslet received her first Academy Award® nomination for this

performance and was also nominated for a Golden Globe®. She then went on to win the BAFTA and the Screen Actors Guild Award.

Winslet co-starred with Christopher Eccleston in Michael Winterbottom's **Jude**; and then as Ophelia in Kenneth Branagh's **Hamlet**. She appeared as the iconic survivor, Rose, in James Cameron's **Titanic** opposite Leonardo DiCaprio. At the age of 22, Winslet received her second Academy Award® nomination for this role and the honour of being the youngest actress ever to be nominated for two Academy Awards®.

In 1997 Winslet starred as Julia in **Hideous Kinky**, directed by Gillies McKinnon; and in 1998 co-starred with Harvey Keitel in Jane Campion's comedic drama **Holy Smoke**. She also starred in Philip Kaufman's period drama **Quills** along with Geoffrey Rush, Joaquin Phoenix and Michael Caine.

In 2001 Winslet starred in the Richard Eyre production of **Iris**, playing the young Iris Murdoch to Judi Dench's older Iris and received Golden Globe® and Oscar® nominations. She next starred in Michael Apted's **Enigma**, a spy drama about code breakers during WWII, and **The Life of David Gale**. She then went on to star as Clementine in **Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind**, for which she received Academy Award®, Golden Globe® and BAFTA nominations for Best Actress. She then went on to star opposite Johnny Depp in **Finding Neverland**, which was named the 2004 Best Film by the National Board of Review.

In 2006, Winslet was seen in **All the King's Men**, with Jude Law and Sean Penn, directed by Steven Zaillian. She then extended her voice to the animated feature **Flushed Away**; and finished the year in the romantic comedy **The Holiday** opposite Cameron Diaz, Jude Law, and Jack Black. She starred opposite Patrick Wilson and Jennifer Connelly in Todd Field's **Little Children** for which she received her fifth Academy Award® nomination for Best Actress.

Winslet played the title role in HBO's multi award-winning five-part mini-series **Mildred Pierce** for which she won Emmy®, Golden Globe® and SAG Awards as Best Actress in 2010. She joined the ensemble cast of Steven Soderbergh's **Contagion**; and starred in Roman Polanski's **Carnage**, which premiered in competition at the 2011 Venice Film Festival.

2014 saw Kate co-star with Josh Brolin in director Jason Reitman's **Labor Day**. The film premiered at the 2013 Toronto Film Festival and earned Winslet a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress.

February 2015 saw Kate reprise her role in: **Insurgent**, the second film in Veronica Roth's best-selling book series. Kate also starred in **A Little Chaos**, a film directed by Alan Rickman and written by Allison Deegan. The film also starred Alan Rickman and Stanley Tucci. November of the same year saw Kate star in the lead role of Jocelyn Moorhouse's **The Dressmaker**, based on the novel by Rosalie Ham. Kate starred opposite Liam Hemsworth and Judy Davis and the role gained her a Best Actress AACTA Award. In the same month Kate also starred in **Steve Jobs** alongside Michael Fassbender. The critically acclaimed role won her a Golden Globe® and a BAFTA, along with a SAG and Academy Award® nomination.

March 2016 saw the release of **Triple Nine** in which Kate starred opposite Chiwetel Ejiofor, Casey Affleck and Aaron Paul. She was also seen in **Collateral Beauty** alongside Will Smith, Helen Mirren and Keira Knightley.

2017 saw Kate star opposite Idris Elba in **The Mountain Between Us**, a Hany Abu-Assad film adaptation of Charles Martin's novel. She was also seen in **Wonder Wheel** with Justin Timberlake and Juno Temple.

2018 saw Kate complete work on James Cameron's sequel to *Avatar* as Ronal, alongside Zoe Saldana and Sam Worthington. Twentieth Century Fox will release the film on the 17th December 2021. Out last week is Roger Michell's **Blackbird**, a remake of the 2014 Danish film "Silent Heart." Bex Taylor-Klaus, Susan Sarandon, Sam Neill and Mia Wasikowska also star. Kate stars alongside Saoirse Ronan in Francis Lee's **Ammonite**. The story explores the life of fossil hunter Mary Anning (Winslet).

Winslet will lend her voice to the title character of **Black Beauty** in Ashley Avis' adaptation of the classic story. Kate will also lead a stellar cast as 'Mare Sheehan' and executive produce the limited series **Mare of Easttown** for HBO, created by Brad Ingelsby. She will play a small-town Pennsylvania detective whose life crumbles around her as she investigates a local murder. The series is being directed by Gavin O'Connor (*The Accountant*).

In 2013, Winslet was awarded the CBE, which she received from HM Queen Elizabeth II in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. She was also awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in March 2014, cementing her status amongst the stars of Hollywood. She was also the recipient of The Dilys Powell Award for Excellence in Film at the 38th London Critics' Circle Film Awards in January 2018.

About the Chicago International Film Festival

Celebrating its 56th edition October 14-25, 2020, the Chicago International Film Festival is North America's longest-running competitive film festival. Showcasing the best in international and independent films from around the world, the 56th edition will be virtual and present more than 50 feature films and nine short film programs from around the world, bringing audiences together through virtual screenings, one-night-only live events, virtual tribute events with directors and actors, as well as movie club-style gatherings for audiences. From dramas and thrillers to documentaries and comedies, the Festival presents a vast diversity of offerings, including numerous competitive categories and several highlight programs such as Black Perspectives, Cinemas of the Americas, International Comedy, Women in Cinema, Out-Look, After Dark and the City & State program (showcasing films made in Chicago and throughout Illinois.)

Festival Sponsors and Partners

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About Cinema/Chicago

Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a year-round nonprofit arts and education organization dedicated to fostering better communication between people of diverse cultures through the art of film and the moving image. Cinema/Chicago's programs include the [Chicago International Film Festival](#), [Summer Screenings Program](#), [CineYouth Festival](#), and year-round [Education Program](#). For more information, please visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#).

More information can be found at <https://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/>.

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