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**Lou Diamond Phillips to Accept Star Award
during 20th Anniversary Dallas International Film Festival Ceremonies**

DALLAS, March 2026 – Actor/director **Lou Diamond Phillips**, who first gained attention with his roles in *LA BAMBA*, *STAND AND DELIVER*, and *YOUNG GUNS*, will accept the **DIFF Dallas Star Award** as part of the **2026 Dallas International Film Festival (DIFF)**.

Phillips will be honored at a luncheon hosted by **Virgin Hotels Dallas** on Friday, April 24. He will discuss his latest film, **KEEP QUIET** – which will have its North American Premiere at DIFF before its theatrical release by Lionsgate in April – onstage with **NBC 5 Today anchor Deborah Ferguson**.

Artistic Director **James Faust** says that the Festival and Phillips have a long and close relationship, which makes this award special as part of the 20th edition celebration. **Michael Cain** – who was the co-founder, along with the late Liener Temerlin, of Dallas Film Society, Inc. in 2006 and the original Festival in 2007 – will present the award to Phillips.

Community leaders **Tanya Foster** and **Lynn McBee**, both of whom held previous leadership roles with the Festival's parent organization, **Dallas Film Society, Inc.**, are co-chairs for the 20th Anniversary Dallas International Film Festival. Foster, who served as the Executive Director, and McBee, who served as the Board Chair, will preside over the 20th anniversary events, including the DIFF Dallas Star Award Luncheon.

“We are delighted that Lou Diamond Phillips will be joining us to accept the DIFF Dallas Star Award and to share his latest film,” said DIFF Dallas CEO **Beth Wilbins**. “Adding his name to the list of previous recipients of the Star Award has special meaning to everyone who has known him over the years through DIFF.”

Former recipients of the Star Award include: Lauren Bacall, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Brad Bird, L.M. Kit Carson (posthumous), Blythe Danner, Frank Darabont, Marvin Hamlisch, John Lee Hancock, Helen Hunt, Glen Keane, Ed Lachman, John Landis, Laura Linney, David Lynch, Bill Paxton (posthumous), Gregory Peck (posthumous), Wally Pfister, Eric Pleskow, Sidney Pollack, Bernie Pollack, Sarah Polley, Mickey Rooney, Gabourey Sidibe, Charlize Theron, Jack Valenti, and Todd Wagner.

Sponsorship information for the DIFF Dallas Star Award Luncheon Honoring Lou Diamond Phillips, scheduled on Friday, April 24, 2026, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., is available at <https://diffstarawardluncheon.eventive.org/welcome>.

The eight-day Dallas International Film Festival, the only Oscar® Qualifying Festival in North Texas, is set for Thursday, April 23 – Thursday, April 30, 2026.

Currently, Phillips appears on the popular HBO series THE CHAIR COMPANY. He will next be seen in STRANGER THINGS: TALES FROM '85 on Netflix. Recent television credits include PRODIGAL SON, LONGMIRE, QUANTUM LEAP, GOLIATH, YOU'RE THE WORST, BLUE BLOODS, and BROOKLYN NINE-NINE. He received Emmy nominations for his roles in CONVERSATIONS IN LA and CROSSROADS OF HISTORY.

Phillips also stars in DC's JUSTICE LEAGUE: CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, GET FAST, WEREWOLVES, EASTER SUNDAY, THE 33, CREATED EQUAL, and the Sundance film FILLY BROWN.

The Dallas International Film Festival is a global adventure featuring more than 125 film screenings, panels, Q&As with filmmakers and actors, nightly Red Carpets, live screenplay table reads, awards, and other events and activations where filmmakers, screenwriters, film industry leaders, celebrities, sponsors, and audiences come together to experience and discuss film. Films are curated from submissions received by filmmakers from 100+ countries worldwide, across Texas, and the United States, and include narrative features, documentaries, and short films of all genres from studios and independent filmmakers. Festival information is available at <https://diffdallas.org/diff>.

The Dallas International Film Festival is one of only 59 film festivals in the United States and only 181 film festivals worldwide to earn the designation of Oscar® Qualifying Festival by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Oscar® Qualifying short film awards at the Dallas International Film Festival

are: Grand Jury Prize - Best Animated Short Film; Grand Jury Prize - Best Documentary Short Film; and Grand Jury Prize - Best Narrative Short Film.

Films that win qualified awards may be qualified to enter the 99th Academy Awards®, provided that the films meet all the requirements set forth in the official rules for that season. See <https://www.oscars.org/oscars/rules-eligibility> for details.

About DIFF Dallas | Dallas International Film Festival

DIFF Dallas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts and culture organization established as Dallas Film Society, Inc. in 2006. Through year-round screenings and events, film series, educational programs, community partnerships, and film festivals, DIFF Dallas builds community and raises awareness of the world's most approachable and inclusive art form.

Named by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an Oscar® Qualifying Festival, The Dallas International Film Festival is the signature presentation of the organization. Through curation of the broadest range of expression through film, the Dallas International Film Festival serves as the region's most powerfully inclusive and equitable platform for diverse, emerging and underrepresented voices. Since its founding, the Festival has screened more than 2,500 widely diverse new films from 60 countries, provided more than \$1.1 million in awards and hosted more than 100,000 filmgoers and filmmakers.

DIFF Dallas is committed to celebrating films and their impact on society, honoring filmmakers and recognizing their contribution enhancing both the creative community and the city of Dallas, providing leadership in film education, and celebrating excellence in the art of film. More information is available at <https://diffdallas.org/>.

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