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National Book 
Foundation *Presenter of the*
National Book Awards

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CYNTHIA NIXON, EMMY, TONY, AND GRAMMY AWARD-WINNER, TO HOST 68TH NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS

The acclaimed actress and activist to serve as master of ceremonies for the 2017 National Book Awards

New York, NY (OCTOBER 31, 2017) – The National Book Foundation is pleased to announce that Cynthia Nixon, acclaimed actress, director, and activist, will host the 68th National Book Awards on November 15 at Cipriani Wall Street. Nixon, known for her wide-ranging work on both stage and screen as well as her vocal advocacy for a variety of causes, will serve as master of ceremonies for the event that will announce the National Book Awards in Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People’s Literature. The ceremony will also include the presentation of two lifetime achievement awards.

In addition to announcing the winners of the National Book Awards, the benefit dinner on November 15 serves to fund the educational and programming work of the National Book Foundation year-round.

Cynthia Nixon’s bio is below.

Cynthia Nixon, Emmy, Tony and Grammy Award-winner, made her film debut at 12 in *LITTLE DARLINGS*, and her Broadway debut at 14 in “The Philadelphia Story,” for which she won a Theatre World Award. In 2017, Nixon starred opposite Laura Linney in the Manhattan Theatre Club’s Broadway production of Lillian Hellman’s play *THE LITTLE FOXES*, directed by Daniel Sullivan. Nixon and Linney alternate the contrasting roles of Regina and Birdie every show in this play about greed and ambition. Set in Alabama in 1900, *THE LITTLE FOXES* follows Regina Giddens and her ruthless clan, including her sister-in-law Birdie, as they clash in often brutal ways in an effort to strike the deal of their lives. Nixon won her second Tony Award for her role as Birdie.

In film, she can currently be seen in Marc Webb’s *THE ONLY LIVING BOY* opposite Jeff Bridges and Pierce Brosnan. Prior to that, she portrayed Emily Dickinson in the Terence Davies’ biopic *A QUIET PASSION*. The film had its world debut at the 2016 Berlin Film Festival, for which she garnered critical acclaim for her role. Richard Brody from *THE NEW YORKER* stated that “while the entire cast moves

and speaks with a sense of inner purpose, Nixon's performance is special," adding that he would "eat the pixels" if she is not nominated next awards season for this performance. The film had its North American premiere at The Toronto International Film Festival and its UK premiere at The London Film Festival and was released in April 2017.

Nixon recently wrapped production of Stephen Moyer's film THE PARTING GLASS opposite Anna Paquin, Ed Asner, Rhys Ifans, Melissa Leo and Dennis O'Hare. The dark comedy follows a family reeling with their sister's death. In embarking on a journey to collect the remnants of her life, the family members delve into past memories to piece together a portrait of the woman they lost.

On television, Nixon starred in the film adaptation of Bill O'Reilly's book KILLING REAGAN for National Geographic Channel, which premiered in October 2016. Nixon plays First Lady Nancy Reagan opposite Tim Matheson as President Ronald Reagan. Nixon's performance earned her a Critics' Choice Award nomination. Nixon guest-starred on Showtime's hit "The Affair" opposite Dominic West and Maura Tierney, as well as in the third season of Comedy Central's hit show "Broad City," alongside stars Ilana Glazer and Abbi Jacobson, in the season's most standout episode, as it also featured presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. Nixon also starred in Nikole Beckwith's STOCKHOLM, PENNSYLVANIA, a drama bought by Lifetime out of Sundance in 2014. For this project, Cynthia received a Critics' Choice Television Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Movie or Limited Series.

Nixon co-starred in Josh Mond's JAMES WHITE opposite Christopher Abbott, a film that won The Best of Next Audience Award at Sundance 2015 and earned Nixon an Independent Spirit Award nomination for her portrayal as a mother dying of cancer. In his review for THE NEW YORK TIMES, Stephen Holden stated that, "Ms. Nixon gives one of the year's most heart-rending screen performances." Other recent film credits include Pamala Romanowsky's THE ADDERALL DIARIES, opposite James Franco, and Richard Loncraine's 5 FLIGHTS UP, opposite Morgan Freeman and Diane Keaton.

In 2015, Nixon had a run of simultaneously directing two New York City plays. The first was New Group's "Steve," which made its world premiere in late November, starring Mario Cantone. "Steve," follows Steven, a failed Broadway chorus boy turned stay-at-home dad. The other show was "MotherStruck!," a one woman play starring Staceyann Chin at The Culture Project. MotherStruck set forth Chin's personal journey to motherhood as a single gay woman with limited resources who was herself abandoned at birth by both of her parents.

In Fall 2014 she appeared on Broadway in Sam Gold's production of "The Real Thing" playing the mother of the character she created on Broadway thirty years ago. In Winter 2014, Cynthia made her directorial debut at The New Group with Joel Johnson's "Rasheeda Speaking" at The New Group. "Rasheeda Speaking" received Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations and cast member Tonya Pinkins won the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play and Musical. "Rasheeda Speaking" was chosen to be broadcast on Channel Thirteen as part of their Theatre Close Up series.

In 1984 she famously juggled two roles on Broadway - in the first act of David Rabe's "Hurlyburly" and in the second act of Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing," both directed by Mike Nichols. Also around that time, she appeared as Mozart's terrified maid-turned-informant in the Oscar-winning film AMADEUS.

Nixon has appeared in plays and films by such varied and distinguished directors as Sidney Lumet, Alan J Pakula, Milos Forman and Robert Altman. Beginning in 1998, Cynthia starred as Miranda Hobbes in HBO's celebrated series SEX AND THE CITY, a role that garnered her the first of her two Emmy Awards. She then went on to co-star in the two wildly successful SEX AND THE CITY films.

Nixon earned her first of four Tony Award nominations for her work in "Indiscretions" in 1995. She has appeared in over 40 plays, 13 on Broadway. Roles include Harper in Tony Kushner's "Angels in America", Mary Haines in the Roundabout's revival of "The Women" (directed by Scott Elliott) and Becca in David Lindsay-Abaire's "Rabbit Hole", for which she won a Tony Award. In 2012 she played John Donne scholar Vivian Bearing in Margaret Edson's Wit, for which she was again Tony-nominated. Cynthia was awarded the 2009 Best Spoken Word Grammy for her recording of Al Gore's AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH.

Nixon currently lives in New York City, with her wife, Christine Marinoni. They have three children: Sam, Charlie and Max.

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The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of great writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings National Book Award authors to colleges across the country; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; **Book Rich Environments**, a partnership between HUD, the US Department of Education, the Urban Library Council, and the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, which last year provided 270,000 books to children and families in 36 different public housing authorities around the country; **Why Reading Matters**, which brings together dedicated literary minds (authors, journalists, librarians, passionate readers) to explore innovative ways to celebrate literature, expand its influence, and create and sustain a love of books for readers at all stages of life; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading club for middle-school students.

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years.

Many previous Winners of the National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, including Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, Joyce Carol Oates, Adrienne Rich, and Jesmyn Ward.