



CASCADIA
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL
www.cascadiafilmfest.org

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**MOTION PICTURE ACADEMY'S IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
TO SPEAK AT CASCADIA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL**

BELLINGHAM, WA, February 12, 2018 —Cheryl Boone Isaacs, immediate Past President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS or the Academy) will be the Special Honored Guest Speaker at this year's CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival to be April 12-15 in Bellingham, WA. Boone Isaacs will speak at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2018 in the Whatcom Museum's Rotunda Room in the Old City Hall, 121 Prospect Street, Bellingham, WA. Her address will be free and open to the public with a ticketed Happy Hour Reception to precede at 5:30 p.m.

Boone Isaacs is the **Academy's first African-American and third female president of the 90-year organization**, having served since being elected in July 2013. She is a film marketing and public relations executive and has represented the public relations branch of the Academy best known for the Academy Awards (The Oscars). Boone Isaacs has also served on the Academy's Board of Governors for more than two decades.

As a Special Honored Guest of the Festival, Boone Isaacs will share her **behind-the-scene experiences** as a public relations and marketing director for major motion pictures and as Academy President with her personal reflections about women, African Americans and power in the American and international film industry.

Boone Isaacs has long been recognized by the film industry as an advocate for women and people of color in Hollywood. As she told ABC News upon announcing in May 2017 that she'd be stepping down as Academy President, the global film community is "one that is becoming more inclusive and diverse with each passing day" and that the 2017 Oscars were "proof that art has no borders, no single language and does not belong to a single faith. The power of art is that it transcends all these things."

In addition to her Academy duties, Boone Isaacs has had a successful and illustrious career as a marketing executive for major motion pictures, including *First Wives Club*, *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*, *Forrest Gump*, *Braveheart*, *The Right Stuff*, *The King's Speech* and *The Artist*, to mention but a few.

Additional details about the April 13 event will be available on the [CASCADIA website](#) and [Facebook page](#) as the festival nears. Tickets for the Happy Hour with Boone Isaacs will be \$50 which includes a \$25 donation to CASCADIA.

The second annual CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival will be held at [Pickford Film Center](#) in Bellingham, WA April 12-15, 2018. The 2018 Official Selection of 24 exceptional films directed by women will be announced on Friday, February 16, 2018, with film trailers and descriptions on the [CASCADIA site](#) and [Facebook page](#) as well as via Twitter and Instargam (@CASCADIAIWWFF).

More about CASCADIA

CASCADIA was founded in 2015:

- to promote Bellingham, Whatcom County and the Pacific Northwest as a destination for filmmakers and film enthusiasts,
- to present an annual film festival showcasing exceptional films by women directors, and
- to provide educational opportunities relating to the viewing, making and distribution of films.

CASCADIA's annual film festival is dedicated to exclusively showcasing the work of women directors. The festival debuted in April 2017, presenting 24 exceptional films directed by women.

[A 2017 study](#) conducted by the Media, Diversity & Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Communications and Journalism School showed that of the 1000 top grossing films from 2007 to 2016, only 4% were directed by women, and that "there was no meaningful change in the prevalence of female directors across the top films from 2007 to 2016."

"The impact of film empowers women, supports local and global ideas and creates opportunities for community members, as well as filmmakers, to participate in the collaboration that is film," explains CASCADIA's Executive Director Cheryl Crooks. "CASCADIA is part of a larger movement to allow women's voices to be heard."

More information may be found on the CASCADIA website: www.cascadiafilmfest.org.

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CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and showcasing the work of women filmmakers, was formed in Bellingham, Washington, in 2015. CASCADIA will host its second annual independent film festival in Bellingham April 12-15, 2018. The organization also works year-round to provide film production, exhibition and distribution education. More information about CASCADIA may be found on their website at www.cascadiafilmfest.org.