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**VARIETY TO HONOR NICOLAS CAGE WITH THE VARIETY LEGEND & GROUNDBREAKER AWARD AT MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL**

*Miami, FL (February 17, 2023)* – Variety will present **Nicolas Cage** with the Variety Legend & Groundbreaker Award at the **Miami Film Festival** on March 5. Previous recipients of the prestigious award include Francis Ford Coppola, Hans Zimmer and Ron Howard. The Miami Film Festival’s 40th edition will run from March 3 through March 12.

“Year after year, Nicolas Cage proves to be an actor of great range, exhibiting dramatic power and great comedic verve, making his work surprising, delightful and moving,” said Steven Gaydos, Variety EVP global content & executive editor. “We're excited to see the Oscar-winner's turn in Universal Pictures’ ‘Renfield’ this year and celebrate his entire career at the Miami Film Festival.”

“Nicolas Cage is the very definition of a legend. An Academy Award-winning actor, a global superstar, and a cult icon, everyone the world over is familiar with his inimitable persona and larger than life presence,” said Lauren Cohen, Miami Film Festival Director of Programming. “He is truly one of a kind — the very essence of what we’re celebrating at our milestone 40th edition.”

Changing his last name early in his career to make his own way in showbiz, Cage broke out in 1983’s “Valley Girl” and went on to star in a number of romantic blockbusters such as “Peggy Sue Got Married” and “Moonstruck” before moving on to actions including “The Rock,” “Con Air” and “Face/Off.” Cage won the Oscar for “Leaving Las Vegas” and was nominated for “Adaptation.”

Cage will join previously announced honorees Diego Luna (Variety Virtuoso Award) and Nicholas Britell (Art of Light Composer Award, presented by Alacran Group). The complete program is available at [www.miamifilmfestival.com](http://www.miamifilmfestival.com). Featuring a dozen World Premieres, three North American Premieres, eight US Premieres, and 14 East Coast Premieres, the 2023 Festival will celebrate more than 140 feature narratives, documentaries and short films of all genres, from over 30 countries worldwide. View the complete program at www.miamifilmfestival.com.

**About Miami Dade College’s Miami Film Festival**

Celebrating cinema in two annual events, Miami Film Festival (40th annual edition March 3-12, 2023) and Miami Film Festival GEMS (November 2023), Miami Dade College’s Miami Film Festival is considered the preeminent film festival for showcasing Ibero-American cinema in the U.S., and a major launch pad for all international and documentary cinema. The annual Festival welcomes more than 45,000 audience members and more than 400 filmmakers, producers, talent and industry professionals. It is the only major festival housed within a college or university. In the last five years, the Festival has screened films from more than 60 countries, including 300 World, International, North American, U.S. and East Coast Premieres. Major sponsors of Miami Film Festival GEMS include Knight Foundation, Telemundo, American Airlines, Estrella Damm, Telemundo, NBC6 and Miami-Dade County. The Festival also offers unparalleled educational opportunities to film students and the community at large. For more information, visit [miamifilmfestival.com](http://www.miamifilmfestival.com/) or call 305-237-FILM (3456).

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