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## **Peter O'Toole to Join Hollywood Royalty at 2011 TCM Classic Film Festival**

**Irish-Born Actor's Hand and Footprints to be Enshrined in Concrete at Famed Grauman's Chinese Theater**

**Celebration to Include Extensive Conversation with Robert Osborne,  
Plus Special Screening of O'Toole's Oscar®-Nominated Performance in *Becket* (1964)**

Legendary actor **Peter O'Toole** will be a special guest at the **2011 TCM Classic Film Festival** as attendees from around the globe join TCM in honoring the Irish-born actor's extraordinary career. Several special events are planned for the celebration, including an in-depth conversation between O'Toole and TCM host Robert Osborne and a special screening of O'Toole's Oscar®-nominated performance in *Becket* (1964).

The TCM Classic Film Festival will take place April 28 - May 1 in Hollywood. As part of the festival activities, O'Toole will place his hand and footprints in concrete in front of the world-famous **Grauman's Chinese Theatre** on Saturday, April 30. "Caught at last. Forensics will have my dabs forever," O'Toole said about the honor.

On Friday, April 29, Osborne will sit down with O'Toole for an extensive conversation about his life and career for a special live taping that will air later on TCM. The conversation will be recorded in front of a live audience of festival attendees at **The Music Box**, the newest venue to be added to the TCM Classic Film Festival.

Also on Friday, the celebration will include a screening of *Becket* (1964), which earned O'Toole the second of eight Best Actor Oscar® nominations. O'Toole will introduce the film, in which he plays England's King Henry II, whose friendship with Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket turned into a power struggle that ended with Becket's murder. Richard Burton, who plays the title role, joined his co-star and good friend on the list of 1964's Best Actor Oscar nominees. O'Toole took on the visage of Henry II again four years later in *The Lion in Winter* (1968), which marked his third Oscar nomination.

"For more than five decades, Peter O'Toole has been a commanding presence on film with his impeccable talent and artistry, all of which has only grown stronger over time," Osborne said. "We couldn't be more pleased that he will be with us in person in Hollywood when we celebrate his life and career at the 2011 TCM Classic Film Festival. His being with us promises to be one of the highlights of an amazing and star-studded event."

O'Toole was born in County Galway, Ireland, and grew up in Leeds, England, the son of a bookmaker father and a Scottish-born nurse mother. After service in the Royal Navy, he became interested in theatre and acting and was accepted by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

O'Toole was in repertory at the Bristol Old Vic for three years. Followed by work at the Royal Court with the other so-called 'angries' and then at Stratford playing Shakespeare where, at the age of 27, his 'Shylock' was hailed by press and public as the finest of his generation, perhaps even of the century. Prior to Stratford he had played in a film called *The Day They*

*Robbed the Bank of England* (1960). This film was seen by David Lean who telephoned O'Toole in Stratford. They met in London. Lean offered O'Toole the part of T.E.L. in *Lawrence of Arabia*. In the first major screen role of O'Toole's career, the golden-haired, blue-eyed actor made a powerful impact on audiences as the conflicted British liaison officer caught at the center of an Arab revolt. The film also marked O'Toole's first Oscar nomination.

Over the next 10 years, he would garner a string of nominations for performances in *Becket* and *The Lion in Winter* (1968), as well as the musical version of *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* (1969) and the wildly offbeat comedy *The Ruling Class* (1972).

O'Toole garnered his sixth Oscar nomination as a tyrannical director in *The Stunt Man* (1980). Two years later, he received a seventh nomination for his funny-yet-touching performance in the nostalgic *My Favorite Year* (1982), in which he plays a former screen idol brought out of the woodwork to guest-star on a live television comedy show in the 1950s. Since then, he has co-starred in a wide range of films, including Bernardo Bertolucci's Oscar-winning film *The Last Emperor* (1987), the comedy hit *King Ralph* (1991) and the epic blockbuster *Troy* (2004).

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award on O'Toole in 2003. Four years later, he was back at the Oscars with his eighth Best Actor nomination for the May-December romance *Venus* (2006). He continues to be extremely active, with such recent credits as *Ratatouille* (2007), *Stardust* (2007), *Dean Spanley* (2008), *Christmas Cottage* (2008) and the popular television series *The Tudors*.

Throughout his film career O'Toole has continued his theatre work, averaging a play every two years. He retired from the stage in 1999.

### **About the TCM Classic Film Festival**

The multi-faceted TCM Classic Film Festival – which runs from **April 28 – May 1, 2011**, in Hollywood – will be packed with more than 70 screenings, including special introductions, guest appearances, panel discussions and more. *Vanity Fair* is once again joining TCM as a festival partner. The magazine will produce the exclusive, opening-night after-party that will follow the red-carpet gala screening of *An American in Paris*. TCM host and film historian Robert Osborne will serve as official host of the festival. Time Warner Cable is also an official festival partner.

Peter O'Toole, Leslie Caron, Mickey Rooney, Debbie Reynolds, Jane Powell, Warren Beatty, Alec Baldwin, Hayley Mills, Richard Roundtree and Roger Corman are just a few of the notables slated to appear during the festival. Throughout the festival, TCM will celebrate movie music, with multi-film tributes to George and Ira Gershwin, composer Bernard Herrmann and singing cowboy Roy Rogers. The festival will also celebrate the musical legacy of Walt Disney, including his *Silly Symphonies* and *Laugh-O-Gram* shorts.

Among the numerous films slated for the 2011 TCM Classic Film Festival are *Reds* (1981), *Becket* (1964), *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961), *West Side Story* (1961), *The Parent Trap* (1961), *Whistle Down the Wind* (1961), *The Guns of Navarone* (1961), *The Little Shop of Horrors* (1960), *La Dolce Vita* (1960), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (1954), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951), *Cabin in the Sky* (1943), *Went the Day Well?* (1942), *Citizen Kane* (1941), *Fantasia* (1940), *Dodsworth* (1936), *Hoop-La* (1933), *The Cameraman* (1928) and *The Merry Widow* (1925), to name a few. TCM is dedicated to showcasing the best possible projection, including digital, 35mm and 70mm prints. Most of the films presented during the TCM Classic Film Festival have been digitally restored and remastered.

Additional information, including a list of programming and events slated for the 2011 TCM Classic Film Festival, is available [here](#).

The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, which has a longstanding role in movie history and was the site of the first Academy Awards® ceremony, will once again serve as the official hotel for the festival, as well as home to Club TCM, a central gathering point for attendees. The Hollywood Roosevelt will also offer special rates for festival goers. Screenings and events will be held at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, the Chinese 6 Multiplex and the Egyptian Theatre. Delta is the official airline partner.

## **About TCM**

Turner Classic Movies is a Peabody Award-winning network that presents great films, uncut and commercial-free, from the largest film libraries in the world. Currently seen in more than 85 million homes, TCM features the insights of veteran primetime host Robert Osborne and weekend daytime host Ben Mankiewicz, plus interviews with a wide range of special guests. As the foremost authority in classic films, TCM offers critically acclaimed original documentaries and specials, along with regular programming events that include *The Essentials*, *31 Days of Oscar* and *Summer Under the Stars*. TCM also stages special events and screenings, such as the TCM Classic Film Festival in Hollywood; produces a wide range of media about classic film, including books and DVDs; and hosts a wealth of materials at its Web site, [www.tcm.com](http://www.tcm.com). TCM is part of Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., a Time Warner company.

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