



NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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World famous celebrities in music and film to be honored at Riverside International Film Festival

World famous celebrities in music and television will walk the red carpet in Riverside as part of the upcoming 13th Annual Riverside International Film Festival.

The Riverside County Economic Development Agency's Office of Film & TV is arranging the celebrity appearances to reflect art and music film themes to be showcased at the festival scheduled for April 3-12 at the Fox Theater in downtown Riverside.

The festival's 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award in Film and Television will be awarded to legendary actor, writer and director Joe Mantegna, star of the hit TV series, Criminal Minds. Lifetime Achievement in Music will be presented to Mike Love who has been rocking and rolling for more than fifty years as the lead singer and front man of The Beach Boys. Love and Mantegna will receive their awards at a gala on April 4.

Riverside County demonstrated its support for the film industry when the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that waived fees for film projects and made county facilities available as shooting locations. Riverside County EDA also offers the film office staff as a concierge to filmmakers from around the globe who are working on projects in the county.

"It is very encouraging to know that Riverside County has increased its efforts to nurture our growing film community," said Harki Dhillon, the festival's president.

Marion Ashley, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, congratulated Mantegna and Love on the awards and offered continued support for the film industry. "Riverside County is delighted to be a major sponsor of the festival. This event has the potential to elevate our global profile and destination recognition, and it is a great opportunity to enjoy premieres of independent films," Ashley said.

In addition to developing relationships in the film industry, the Riverside County Film & Television Office is exploring opportunities with other industry players who will participate in the festival. Longtime Riverside County manufacturer Fender Guitars, the world's most recognizable brand of musical instruments, will be working to support the festival in conjunction with the Fender Music Foundation. The foundation also supports non-profit organizations to promote music programs dealing with education and healing.

"Riverside County is gaining a solid reputation as an entertainment destination and as a business-friendly county for industries related to arts, entertainment and innovation," said Rob Field, Director of the Riverside County Economic Development Agency. "We are proud to be able to showcase some of the industry's finest independent and mainstream films at this important event in our county seat."

More festival information can be found at www.riversidefilm.org.