



## **TWO TIME BAFTA WINNING EDITOR THELMA SCHOONMAKER TO BE HONOURED WITH BAFTA FELLOWSHIP**

London, 24 January 2019: The British Academy of Film and Television Arts will honour BAFTA and Oscar® winning editor Thelma Schoonmaker (*Raging Bull*, *Goodfellas*) with the Fellowship at the EE British Academy Film Awards on Sunday 10 February.

Awarded annually, the Fellowship is the highest accolade bestowed by BAFTA upon an individual in recognition of an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film, games or television. Fellows previously honoured for their work in film include Alfred Hitchcock, Steven Spielberg, Elizabeth Taylor, Stanley Kubrick, Billy Wilder, Ken Loach, Michael Caine, Anthony Hopkins, Laurence Olivier, Judi Dench, Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Lee, Martin Scorsese, Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger, Helen Mirren, Sidney Poitier and Mel Brooks. Ridley Scott received the Fellowship at last year's Film Awards.

Thelma Schoonmaker said: "I am staggered to be asked to join such an illustrious group as the BAFTA Fellows and particularly moved and honoured to be joining two of the most important people in my life - my director, Martin Scorsese, and my late husband, Michael Powell (and his partner Emeric Pressburger) - all of whom have been given BAFTA Fellowships. The British Cinema has been a huge influence on Martin Scorsese and through his teachings on me, I am blessed to be able to help him with the continuing restoration of the Powell and Pressburger legacy. I give my deepest thanks to BAFTA for honouring that work and my work as Scorsese's editor with this Fellowship."

Amanda Berry OBE, Chief Executive of BAFTA, said: "We are thrilled to honour Thelma Schoonmaker with a BAFTA Fellowship, celebrating her career as one of the film industry's most respected editors responsible for some of cinema's most iconic and treasured moments."

Thelma Schoonmaker's acclaimed career has spanned over 50 years, and her celebrated partnership with Martin Scorsese has garnered nominations for nine BAFTA Awards, winning Best Editing in 1982 for *Raging Bull*, *Goodfellas* in 1991 and seven Academy Award nominations, winning the award for *Raging Bull* (1981), *The Aviator* (2005) and *The Departed* (2007).

Born in Algiers in 1940, Schoonmaker moved to the United States as a teenager and attended Cornell University, studying Political Science and Russian language. After graduating from Cornell in 1961, she began a course at Columbia University in Primitive Art. During this time Schoonmaker responded to an advertisement in *The New York Times* for a trainee assistant film editor and got the job. She then signed up for a brief six-week course in film-making at New York University, where she came into contact with a young filmmaker called Martin Scorsese after a professor asked that she could help him salvage the badly mangled negative of his student film; *What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?* Subsequently in 1967 Schoonmaker went on to help Scorsese edit his first feature film *Who's That Knocking at My Door* marking the beginning of an illustrious filmmaking partnership, which continues to this day over 50 years later.



Whilst at New York University Schoonmaker also met filmmaker Michael Wadleigh and later in 1970 supervised the editing of his influential music documentary Woodstock, earning Schoonmaker her first Academy Award nomination for Best Editing in 1971.

Despite this early success the first part of Schoonmaker's career was difficult; joining the Motion Picture Editors Guild in Los Angeles was challenging with Schoonmaker not meeting the entry requirements despite her Academy Award nomination, meaning she was unable to work in Los Angeles. Consequently, there was a twelve-year gap between her early work with Scorsese, until Raging Bull's producer Irwin Winkler resolved the Guild issue so she could edit the film.

Schoonmaker has gone on to edit every single feature film directed by Martin Scorsese since Raging Bull. Schoonmaker's work on The King of Comedy, Cape Fear, Gangs of New York, The Aviator, The Departed, Hugo and The Wolf of Wall Street all earned her BAFTA Award nominations with Schoonmaker winning the BAFTA for Raging Bull and Goodfellas. Schoonmaker is also the recipient of seven Academy Award nominations winning three Oscars® for Raging Bull, The Aviator and The Departed.

Schoonmaker's partnership with Martin Scorsese continues with The Irishman which is set to be released by Netflix in 2019.

Schoonmaker was married to British filmmaker Michael Powell from 1984 until his death in 1990, and since Powell's death she has worked tirelessly honouring his legacy and preserving the films of Powell & Pressburger.

The EE British Academy Film Awards take place on Sunday 10 February at the Royal Albert Hall. The ceremony will be hosted by Joanna Lumley and will be broadcast exclusively on BBC One and BBC One HD. The ceremony is also broadcast in all major territories around the world. On the night, [www.bafta.org](http://www.bafta.org) will feature red carpet highlights, photography and winner's interviews, as well as dedicated coverage on its social channels including Facebook (/BAFTA), Twitter (@BAFTA / #EEBAFTAs) and Instagram.

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**About BAFTA**

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) is a world-leading independent arts charity that brings the very best work in film, games and television to public attention and supports the growth of creative talent in the UK and internationally. Through its Awards ceremonies and year-round programme of learning events and initiatives – which includes workshops, masterclasses, scholarships, lectures and mentoring schemes in the UK, USA and Asia – BAFTA identifies and celebrates excellence, discovers, inspires and nurtures new talent, and enables learning and creative collaboration. For advice and inspiration from the best creative minds in working in film, games and television, visit [www.bafta.org/guru](http://www.bafta.org/guru). For more, visit [www.bafta.org](http://www.bafta.org).