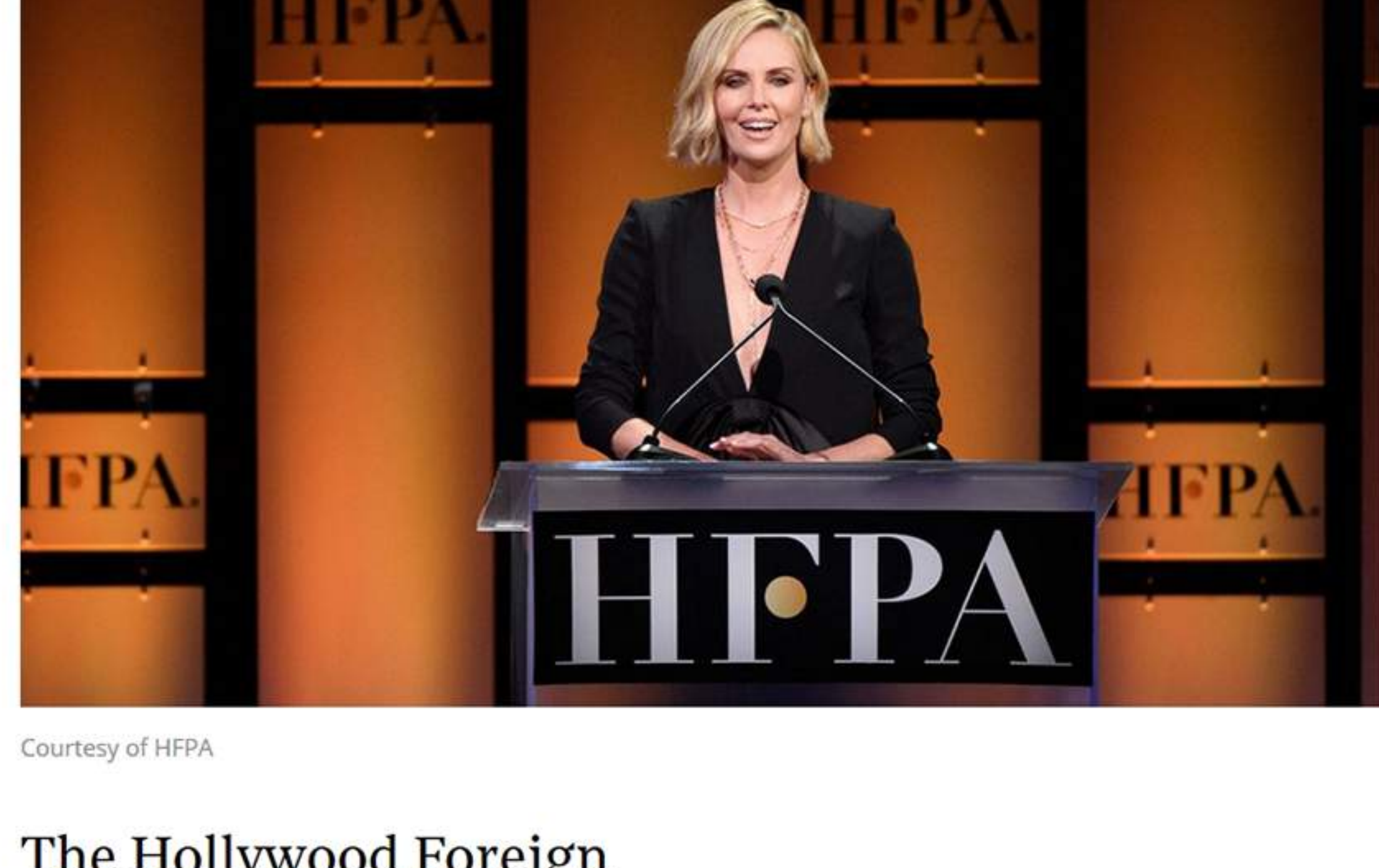


Charlize Theron, Jennifer Garner, Lena Waithe Help Present \$3.25 Million in Grants at HFPA Gala

11:00 AM PDT 8/10/2018 by Chris Gardner



Courtesy of HFPA

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association awards \$3.25 million to organizations including RAICES and The Actors Gang during the 2018 Grants Banquet attended by Steve Carell, Jason Bateman, Rami Malek, Dakota Fanning, Alfre Woodard and Christian Slater.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association took over the Beverly Hilton's International Ballroom on Thursday night, the same space that hosts the organization's Golden Globes and that fact was not lost on William H. Macy.

"We've got this joint to ourselves tonight," explained the actor in his opening remarks as the 2018 host of the HFPA Grants Banquet. "We own it, so spread out." The *Shameless* star was speaking about the seating — he encouraged guests to enjoy their time in the "pit" because once the Globes come back to the room, A-listers will own the VIP area closest to the stage — but he might as well have been referencing the money HFPA doled out during the gala. It was spread out, too, and there was a lot of it.



Courtesy of HFPA
Host William H. Macy.

The HFPA presented \$3.25 million to a long list of organizations with the help of long list of boldfaced names. It's a night that is free of trophies and empty thank yous. Instead, actors step up to the podium and deliver prepared remarks that serve to promote nonprofit groups or schools and explain those organizations' respective mission statements. The event also shines a spotlight on the philanthropic work of HFPA which has donated more than \$33 million over 25 years to entertainment related charities, scholarship programs and humanitarian efforts.

"There will be no colluding, fake news, nepotism, tweets, swamp draining, document checking, boats being untied and sent adrift or alternative facts," Macy quipped. "Tonight, we are here to do good; and by that, I mean give out more than \$3 million to various worldwide charities, educational institutions and community support groups."

Talent who helped HFPA deliver on that mission by taking to the stage on behalf of various nonprofit groups included two filmmakers, Alfonso Cuaron and Jason Reitman, along with Charlize Theron, Steve Carell, Jennifer Garner, Lena Waithe, Jason Bateman, Rami Malek, Dakota Fanning, Alfre Woodard, Christian Slater, Regina King, Amber Heard, Ben Hardy, Billy Porter, Chris Messina, Cody Fern, Connie Britton, Cynthia Erivo, Dawn-Lyen Gardner, Joey King, John Cho, John David Washington, Mj Rodriguez and Nia Long. HFPA president Meher Tatna also made her way to the podium several times throughout the evening.



Courtesy of HFPA
HFPA president Meher Tatna.

Erivo sang a rendition of "Home," the iconic song from the musical *The Wiz*, a performance that drew a standing ovation. It came on a night that happened to be the birthday of late singer Whitney Houston, who passed away in the hotel. Houston famously performed "Home" during her very first television appearance on *The Merv Griffin Show*. ("The spirit is here," Houston super fan Waithe told *THR*.)

Other highlights of the event included:

- Carell presented a \$250,000 grant to the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES). The Texas-based organization promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families and refugees in Central and South Texas. RAICES has been instrumental in the fight to reunite families who were recently separated at the border, and that's what drew HFPA to donate money to the cause. "We are all immigrants in this association so that really speaks to us that everybody came here for a better life for the promise of America," Tatna told *THR*. "To see what's happening, we wanted to help."
- Garner presented a new grant from the HFPA awarded to The Actors Gang, the nonprofit founded by actor Tim Robbins. "For an actor, performing works that are relevant to the world in which we live is the ultimate reward," said Garner. "The goal of this program is finding a creative prevention; reaching those students who do not respond to traditional learning methods by giving them the freedom of self-expression." On the blue carpet prior to the event, Robbins told *THR*, "I'm honored and grateful for their generosity."
- Cho and Long proved to be the night's most entertaining duo, going off script several times and punching up their prepared remarks. Cho accepted a grant on behalf of the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, which offers year-round services to Asian Pacific American entertainment professionals. "As someone born in Seoul, South Korea who lives and works in L.A., I passionately believe that promoting diversity and cross-cultural awareness is more important than ever to ensure fair and interesting storytelling, and to give minority filmmakers the opportunity to broaden the audiences' horizon," said the actor.
- Bateman was joined on stage by Fanning and accepted a grant on behalf of California State University Dominguez Hills Film School. "Many of the more than 15,000 students are minorities, often struggling with homelessness; others care for children or aging parents, or are undocumented or products of the foster care system," he said. "This HFPA Fellowship will assist those students who face financial hardships and give them an innovative strategy for success"
- Reitman and Cuaron announced an initiative led by the HFPA in partnership with Film Independent. Rising filmmakers from the 2018 Venice International Film Festival and the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival will be selected for a three-week residency program where they will travel to Los Angeles in January for mentorship, master classes and workshops to help hone their skills. They will attend screenings and education events hosted by Film Independent and attend the HFPA-hosted 76th annual Golden Globes viewing party.

A full list of HFPA's 2018 grant recipients and images from the evening are below.

Higher Education: Fellows and Institutional Support

- California Institute for the Arts (CalArts) - \$60,000
- Cal State Fullerton - \$60,000
- Cal State Long Beach - \$60,000
- Cal State Los Angeles - \$60,000
- Cal State Northridge - \$60,000
- Columbia University - \$60,000
- Los Angeles City College - \$25,000
- Mt. San Antonio College Foundation - \$20,000
- New York University - \$50,000
- Santa Monica College - \$30,000
- University of California, Los Angeles - \$125,000

Professional Training and Mentoring

- American Film Institute - \$40,000
- Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment - \$20,000
- Exceptional Minds - \$25,000
- Film Independent, Project: Involve - \$60,000
- Independent Filmmaker Project (Brooklyn) - \$20,000
- International Documentary Association - \$10,000
- Motion Picture & Television Fund - \$15,000
- New Filmmakers Los Angeles - \$15,000
- SAG-AFTRA Foundation - \$10,000
- Streetlights - \$20,000
- Sundance Institute - \$125,000
- Veterans in Film & Television - \$30,000
- Sharewell (Zimmer Children's Museum) - \$10,000

Pre-Professional Education and Mentoring

- California State Summer School Arts Foundation - \$25,000
- Echo Park Film Center - \$10,000
- Ghetto Film School - \$30,000
- GlobalGirl Media - \$10,000
- Inner-City Arts (Downtown LA) - \$30,000
- Inner City Filmmakers (Santa Monica) - \$40,000
- Kids in the Spotlight - \$10,000
- LAUSD/USC Arts & Engineering Magnet - \$25,000
- Los Angeles County High School for the Arts - \$25,000
- Los Angeles LGBT Center - \$10,000
- The Music Center - \$5,000

Preserve the Culture and History of Film

- Film Noir - \$50,000
- Outfest (UCLA LGBT project) - \$35,000
- The Film Foundation - \$350,000

Promote Cultural Exchange Through Film

- American Cinematheque - \$45,000
- Film Independent/LACMA Series - \$300,000
- FilmAid International - \$200,000
- Hollywood Heritage Museum - \$10,000
- Latin American Cinemateca of Los Angeles - \$15,000
- Library Foundation of Los Angeles - \$20,000
- Los Angeles Conservancy, Last Remaining Seats - \$35,000
- Museum of the Moving Image - \$10,000
- San Francisco Silent Film Festival - \$10,000
- University of California, Berkeley Film Archive - \$20,000
- University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (Ebertfest) - \$10,000

Special Projects

- Children's Hospital - \$35,000
- Ensemble Studio Theatre - \$15,000
- Gingold Theatre Group/Shaw Festival - \$20,000
- Lollipop Theater Network - \$20,000
- Pablove Foundation - \$20,000
- The Moth - \$70,000
- Young Musicians Foundation - \$10,000
- Young Storytellers Foundation - \$10,000

2018 New Grantees

- American Documentary Association - \$30,000
- Australians in Film - \$10,000
- Cal State Dominguez Hills - \$30,000
- Cal State Dominguez Hills - \$5,000
- City Year Los Angeles - \$10,000
- Dag Hammarskjold Fund for Journalists - \$10,000
- GetLit - Worlds Ignite - \$10,000
- IndieCollect - \$10,000
- LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation - \$10,000
- POPS the Club - \$10,000
- Southwestern Law School - \$30,000
- The Actor's Gang - \$10,000
- Women in Film - \$10,000

2018 One-Time Equipment Grants

- Cal State Fullerton - \$25,000
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles - \$20,730
- Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA - \$10,000
- Film Independent, Project Involve - \$25,000
- Inner City Filmmakers (Santa Monica) - \$49,300
- Los Angeles Conservancy - \$10,000
- New Filmmakers Los Angeles - \$21,000
- Outfest - \$50,000
- Santa Monica College - \$20,000
- Sharewell (Zimmer Children's Museum) - \$43,220
- Streetlights - \$23,700
- Young Musicians Foundation - \$7,500