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Stockholm Lifetime Achievement Award 2014 goes to director Mike Leigh

This year's Stockholm Lifetime Achievement Award is granted one of Europe's most exceptional directors, Mike Leigh. During an exclusive Face2Face seminar, following the premiere of his latest film *Mr. Turner*, Leigh will be presented the Bronze Horse, and meet the audience.

Justification: *Every new Mike Leigh feature is an invitation to a glimpse into lives so fully formed and vivid with a cast of actors who portray not characters, but breathing, living people. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a filmmaker who is comfortable humanizing master artists, abortionists and people who others would shy their gaze from. Mike Leigh is a true cinematic humanist, an exceptional director of actors and a master of improvisational filmmaking.*

Brit Mike Leigh is one of the past decades' greatest European directors. He debuted in 1971 with *Bleak Moments*, and he has since been awarded the Palme d'Or for *Secrets and Lies* (1996), and the Venice Golden Lion for *Vera Drake* (2004).

Leigh will be visiting the festival together with Marion Bailey, who has a leading role in his latest film; *Mr. Turner* (2014). The film chronicles the last quarter century of the brilliant yet eccentric British painter J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851).

Mr. Turner was selected in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2014 where it was hailed by critics and Timothy Spall was named best actor for his performance.

Synopsis

Profoundly affected by the death of his father, loved by a housekeeper he takes for granted and occasionally exploits sexually, he forms a close relationship with a seaside landlady with whom he eventually lives incognito in Chelsea, where he dies.

Throughout this, he travels, paints, stays with the country aristocracy, visits brothels, is a popular if anarchic member of the Royal Academy of Arts, has himself strapped to the mast of a ship so that he can paint a snowstorm, and is both celebrated and reviled by the public and by royalty.

J.M.W. Turner is portrayed by Timothy Spall, who has appeared in several of Leigh's films. The cast also features Dorothy Atkinson as, Hannah Danby, and Marion Bailey as Sophia Booth.

Cast: Timothy Spall, Dorothy Atkinson, Marion Bailey, Paul Jesson, Lesley Manville, Martin Savage, Ruth Sheen.

Face2Face and premiere screening of *Mr. Turner*: November 8. Swedish Distributor: AB Svensk Filmindustri

Mr. Turner premieres in Swedish theatres December 25

The Stockholm Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to honor and acknowledge a longstanding career and an outstanding achievement in cinema. The prestigious award, in the shape of a 7,3kg (16 lb) Bronze Horse is the heaviest film award in the world. It is also a paraphrase on a national design icon, the Swedish Dala horse, and was created by artist Fredrik Swärd. The prize has previously been awarded to directors such as Jean-Luc Godard, Quentin Tarantino, David Cronenberg, David Lynch and Oliver Stone.

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The 25th Stockholm International Film Festival November 5-16 2014. *The Stockholm International Film Festival started in 1990 and is today one of the leading competitive film festivals in Europe. The festival takes place every year in November with more than 180 films from more than 50 countries. More than a festival: we organize exclusive screenings and the popular Summer Cinema – an outdoor mini-festival. Every year in spring the Stockholm International Film Festival Junior brings the latest films to youngsters between 6 and 16 years of age.*

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