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Hollywood Legend Gena Rowlands Garners IPA's *Mary Pickford Award For Outstanding Artistic Contribution to the Entertainment Industry*

Los Angeles, CA – November 15, 2005 – The International Press Academy (IPA) has announced that Gena Rowlands will receive the IPA's prestigious *Mary Pickford Award For Outstanding Artistic Contribution to the Entertainment Industry*, to be presented at the 10th Annual Satellite Awards on Dec. 17 at 1 p.m. Past recipients of the Mary Pickford Award include: Jodie Foster, Francis Ford Coppola, Karl Malden, Alan J. Pakula, Rod Steiger, Arnon Milchan, Maximilian Schell, Robert Evans, and last year's recipient, Susan Sarandon.

"Gena Rowlands is a classic performer who exemplifies the kind of contributor to the entertainment industry that the IPA honors," said Mirjana van Blaricom, IPA president. "She is involved in many aspects of the business and is a true Hollywood living legend."

Gena Rowlands was born in Cambria, Wisconsin and attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. She is an accomplished star of the screen, stage and television who has received many awards for her performances over a long and distinguished career. Much of her work includes several notable collaborations with her husband, the late John Cassavetes including: *FACES*, *A CHILD IS WAITING*, *GLORIA* and *A WOMAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE*, for which she received a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress, the National Board of Review Award, the San Sebastian Film Festival Award and an Academy Award® nomination for Best Actress.

Rowlands' other recognitions include the Venice Film Festival Award for Best Actress, The Golden Lion (*GLORIA*) and The Berlin Film Festival's Silver Bear Award for *OPENING NIGHT*, among many others. Gena also won an Emmy award in 2003 for Best Supporting Actress for her work in the mini-series *HYSTERICAL BLINDNESS* for HBO, and was a recipient of an Emmy nominee for tele-pic, *WILD IRIS* for Showtime. She also received an Emmy nomination for her starring role in the CBS project, *THE COLOR OF LOVE: JACEY'S STORY*.

She has also appeared in several films by her son, the noted writer/director Nick Cassavetes, including *UNHOOK THE STARS*, *SHE'S SO LOVELY* and the highly successful, *THE NOTEBOOK*. In her storied career, Rowlands starred in the Hallmark Hall of Fame telepic *GRACE AND GLORY* as well as *THE MIGHTY*, *PLAYING BY HEART*, *HOPE FLOATS* and *PAULIE*. Recent projects include *THE INCREDIBLE MRS. RITCHIE* for New Line Pictures and *CHARMS FOR THE EASY LIFE* for the Showtime network. In 2005 she was a headliner in the Universal Pictures thriller, *THE SKELETON KEY* to great acclaim and box office success.

On stage Gena Rowlands debuted in the Broadway production of *THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT* opposite Edward G. Robinson. After a lengthy absence to pursue her film career she returned to the stage to star in Cassavetes' *LOVE STREAMS*, *THE THIRD DAY COMES* and *WOMAN OF MYSTERY*. She appeared with Ben Gazzara in A.R. Gurney's *LOVE LETTERS* to sold-out engagements and later starred in *THE SUBSTANCE OF FIRE* at the Mark Taper Forum.

Rowlands will attend the presentation to pick up her award, along with the other 2005 honoree Stan Winston, a four-time Oscar® winner who will receive the IPA's Tesla Award. The Pickford award is named for the early pioneer of the film industry who began her career as a child actress and went on to become "America's Sweetheart" and a co-founder of United Artists Studios with fellow filmmakers Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith.

The International Press Academy is one of the larger professional entertainment media associations with a membership of domestic and foreign journalists working around the globe.

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