

**PRESS RELEASE** 

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LUMINARIES FROM TELEVISION'S MOST ICONIC SHOWS GATHER TO CELEBRATE THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 'THE INTERVIEWS: AN ORAL HISTORY OF TELEVISION' IN HOLLYWOOD

**Industry Icons Spanning Seven Decades Join Television Academy Foundation Celebration** 



Jonathan Murray, from left, Judy Crown, Julie Ann Johnson, Margaret Loesch, Lori Openden, Alan Perris, Asaad Kelada, James Hong, Geri Jewell, John Shaffner, Dr. Walter Dishell, Don Enright, Bob Mackie, Lloyd J. Schwartz, JoAnne Worley, J. Michael Straczynski, Michael Learned, Ron Cowen, Sandra Lee Gimpel and Daniel Lipman at The Interviews 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Academy's Saban Media Center on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, in North Hollywood, California (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision for the Television Academy/AP images).

(LOS ANGELES - Dec. 7, 2022) — The Television Academy Foundation toasted the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its acclaimed online archive **The Interviews: An Oral History** of **Television** on Tuesday, Dec. 6, gathering industry legends from in front of and

behind the camera whose work spans more than 70 years in the industry in a special Hollywood celebration.

The event included more than 40 icons currently featured in the archive, including television stars **Kevin Eubanks** (*The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*), **James Hong** (*Hawaii Five-O*), **Geri Jewell** (*Deadwood*; *The Facts of Life*) and **Michael Learned** (*The Waltons; Nurse*) in addition to creative professionals from iconic TV shows such as **Ron Cowen** and **Daniel Lipman** (*Queer as Folk; Sisters*), **Judy Crown** (*Star Trek: Nemesis; The One; Blade*), **Ron Friedman** (*The Danny Kaye Show*), **Asaad Kelada** (*Who's the Boss?; Married People*), and **Ken Levine** (*Cheers; M\*A\*S\*H; Frasier*).

The evening also included a tribute to and live interview with renowned fashion and costume designer to the stars **Bob Mackie**, hosted by *Access Hollywood's* **Scott Evans**.

The Television Academy Foundation has been producing, preserving and curating oral histories of American television since 1997, amassing one of the largest online archives of its kind. It's a fully searchable and free-to-screen collection containing some 3,000 hours of uncensored interviews with icons and inventors from television's earliest days to current stars and visionaries, all of whom chronicle the birth, growth and ongoing evolution of American television. The complete collection is available as a resource <u>TelevisionAcademy.com/Interviews</u>.

"Our thanks to everyone who helped make the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our irreplaceable online archive a celebratory occasion, and we salute those individuals whose contributions have been influential in the evolution of television," said **Cris Abrego**, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. "In the years ahead, the Foundation will continue to capture its history, make it available to television fans worldwide, expand preservation efforts and start a new chapter by prioritizing inclusive representation of its icons and trailblazers."

During the celebration, it was announced that NBCUniversal Syndication Studios' entertainment news show *Access Hollywood* will regularly feature segments from The Interviews archives paired with current reflections of today's biggest changemakers and talent. Titled **\*Access Icons: The Interviews**," Access Hollywood's first segment of the series featured host **Scott Evans** speaking with Emmy-winning actress <u>Sheryl Lee Ralph</u> (*Abbott Elementary*).

## About the Television Academy Foundation

Established in 1959 as the charitable arm of the Television Academy, the Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to preserving the legacy of television while educating and inspiring those who will shape its future. Through renowned educational and outreach programs, such as <u>The Interviews</u>: An Oral History of

Television, <u>College Television Awards and Summit</u>, <u>Student Internship and</u> <u>Fellowship Programs</u> and the <u>Media Educators Conference</u>, the Foundation seeks to widen the circle of voices our industry represents and to create more opportunity for television to reflect all of society. For more information on the Foundation, please visit <u>TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation</u>.

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