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Noah Baumbach Receives the A Tribute to ... Award

Zurich, September 9, 2025

The 21st Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) will honor U.S. director and screenwriter Noah Baumbach with the prestigious A Tribute to ... Award for his outstanding body of work. The honorary award will be presented to him on September 26 during the «Gala Premieres» of his new film JAY KELLY at the Kongresshaus. In addition, Baumbach will hold a public ZFF Masters.

Noah Baumbach has been one of the most distinctive voices in American cinema for decades. With films such as THE SQUID AND THE WHALE, FRANCES HA and MARRIAGE STORY, he has made film history and become synonymous with finely tuned yet humorous relationship dramas. Baumbach's MARRIAGE STORY received six Academy Award nominations, with Laura Dern winning the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in 2020. Time and again, Baumbach succeeds in blending intimate everyday stories with existential questions—brought to life by outstanding actors such as Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver, Nicole Kidman, Ben Stiller, Adam Sandler, Dustin Hoffman and Greta Gerwig.

His new film also remains true to the «comédie humaine»: JAY KELLY is a delightful satire on the Hollywood star circus. George Clooney plays a famous movie actor, Jay Kelly, as he embarks on a journey of self-discovery confronting both his past and present, accompanied by his devoted manager Ron (Adam Sandler). This biting comedy is considered one of the major Oscar contenders of the season. Poignant and humor-filled, epic and intimate, JAY KELLY is pitched at the intersection of life's regrets and notable glories.



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Baumbach will receive the A Tribute to ... Award at ZFF on September 26, where he will also present his new work JAY KELLY as a «Gala Premiere».

«With Noah Baumbach, we are honoring an auteur who has shaped U.S. cinema for decades with his subtle insight into human relationships and his precise powers of observation», says Christian Jungen, Festival Director of the ZFF. «JAY KELLY is, in my opinion, one of the outstanding films of the year and one of those works that, looking back, will be regarded as a masterpiece.»

Noah Baumbach is a four-time Academy Award–nominated writer and director. His films include WHITE NOISE; MARRIAGE STORY; THE MEYEROWITZ STORIES (NEW AND SELECTED); WHILE WE'RE YOUNG; MISTRESS AMERICA; FRANCES HA; GREENBERG; MARGOT AT THE WEDDING; THE SQUID AND THE WHALE; KICKING AND SCREAMING; and the documentary DE PALMA. He co-wrote BARBIE with Greta Gerwig, as well as FANTASTIC MR. FOX and THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU with Wes Anderson.

The A Tribute to ... Award

Since 2005, the Zurich Film Festival has presented the A Tribute to ... Award to outstanding auteur filmmakers in recognition of their contribution to film history. Past recipients include Edward Berger, Paolo Sorrentino, Wim Wenders, Olivier Assayas, Claire Denis, Michael Haneke, Oliver Stone, Maiwenn, and Luca Guadagnino.

Zurich Film Festival

The Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) is the second largest festival in the German-speaking world. Over 11 days in autumn, it presents the greatest discoveries and the year's most anticipated movies. The ZFF promotes exchange between upcoming directors, established filmmakers, the film industry and the general public. In the last 20 years, the festival has attracted a total of 1.35 million visitors. 500 of the 2,300 films screened celebrated their world or European premiere at the Zurich Film Festival.

The 21st edition will take place from 25 September to 5 October 2025.

Further Information: [Zurich Film Festival](#) | [ZFF Industry](#)

Media contact:

Zurich Film Festival
Simon Keller, PR-Manager
media@zff.com, + 41 78 745 13 71

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Zurich Film Festival AG
Kreuzstrasse 2
8008 Zürich
Schweiz

+41442866000
media@zff.com
www.zff.com