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Zurich Film Festival Honors Glen Basner with Game Changer Award

Zurich - May 7, 2026

FilmNation Entertainment Founder and CEO Glen Basner will receive the Game Changer Award at this year's Zurich Summit, which takes place September 25 - 27, 2026 in Switzerland. The Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) honors Basner for his outstanding achievements, excellent cinematic taste, and significant contributions within the film industry.

Glen Basner is founder and Chief Executive Officer of multi-Academy Award® winning FilmNation Entertainment, a leading independent entertainment company that produces, finances, and distributes films, TV series, podcasts, and theater productions with global appeal. FilmNation productions include **Sean Baker's ANORA**, starring **Mikey Madison**, which won five Oscars® including Best Picture and Best Actress and **Edward Berger's Academy Award®-Winning CONCLAVE**, starring **Ralph Fiennes**; and sales for **Pablo Larrain's Academy Award®-Nominated MARIA**. The company also produced award-winning box office hits **PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN**, **ARRIVAL**, and **THE BIG SICK**, and is the home of Infrared, a film production label focused on genre films with franchise potential, such as

NOVOCAINE for Paramount and the upcoming **SKELETONS** for Sony Pictures.

The **Game Changer Award** recognizes influential leaders who shape the future of the industry, drive innovation, leadership, and forward-thinking change in the entertainment business. Past accomplished recipients of the Game Changer Award include NEON CEO **Tom Quinn**, CAA Media Finance & International Film Group Head **Roeg Sutherland**, Legendary-193 CEO and Academy Award® Best Picture winner **Patrick Wachsberger (CODA)**, Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group Co-Chair & CEO **Pam Abdy** and Sony Pictures Classics Co-Presidents **Michael Barker** and **Tom Bernard**, among others.

Statement **Christian Jungen**, CEO Zurich Film Festival: «Since its founding in 2008, FilmNation Entertainment, under the steady leadership of Glen Basner, has grown into a major and dominant independent force with global ambitions. Basner has consistently championed bold and distinctive cinematic voices, supporting acclaimed auteurs such as **Denis Villeneuve**, **Edward Berger**, and **Sean Baker**. His commitment to high-quality filmmaking is matched by a strong belief in the theatrical experience and a dedication to protecting and empowering directors. The Zurich Film Festival has maintained a long-standing relationship with FilmNation, previously showcasing titles such as **ANORA** and **CONCLAVE** as part of its official line up. As a tastemaker and industry leader, Basner stands out for his rare ability to combine creative instincts with market insights, sales expertise, and strong business acumen – qualities reflected in the success of the impactful films his company brings to audiences worldwide. In recognition of these achievements, he is a deserving recipient of our Game Changer Award, continuing to elevate the industry across film, television, podcasts, and theater.»

Statement **Glen Basner**, CEO FilmNation Entertainment: «Given the terrific group of previous recipients whom I admire greatly, this is a tremendous honor for both me and the team at FilmNation. We all need to be game changing in today's independent entertainment business and I'm excited to talk about why I remain entirely optimistic about our future. Thank you to Christian, Reta and the Zurich Film Festival team for their continued support and commitment to championing globally resonant stories and for providing such a critical space to discuss important and current topics with The Zurich Summit.»

FilmNation's most recent TV releases include the Prime Video Original Series **THE HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS**, the historical epic **BLACK GOLD** for NDR and ARD and **SMALL TOWN, BIG STORY** for Sky. FilmNation also debuted the Emmy Award-winning TV series **I KNOW THIS MUCH IS TRUE** for HBO. The company's popular podcasts champion non-fiction storytelling and include the Signal Award-Winning *SNAFU with Ed Helms* and the podcast-inspired book *SNAFU: The Definitive Guide to History's Greatest Screwups* is a New York Times Best Seller. FilmNation's theater credits include 2024 Best Play Tony-Winner *Stereophonic*, and the Tony Award-Winning productions *Prima Facie*, *The Sound Inside*, and *The Band's Visit*.

Basner is recognized among the best sales agents in the world. He is consistently on *The Hollywood Reporter's* Power 100 list, *Variety's* New Power of New York list and the *Variety500*. He's a recipient of the prestigious Gotham Awards' 2019 Industry Achievement Award, for significant contribution to independent cinema and is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Prior to FilmNation, Basner was President, International for The Weinstein Company, where he oversaw all international operations, and Executive Vice President, International Sales & Distribution at Focus Features. He started his career at the venerable New York based indie production and sales company Good Machine.

Following TIFF and Venice, taking place before BFI London, the Zurich Film Festival has become one of the leading and largest fall festivals to launch films and awards contenders in the 100-million German-speaking market with over 120 AMPAS members attending. The Zurich Summit, known as the Davos of the film industry, where Hollywood meets Europe, has evolved into the premier platform for the creative

industries. The exclusive conference brings together a distinguished line up of high-profile executives, top producers, creators, entrepreneurs, and financiers from the film, tech and entertainment sectors to address, discuss and debate current trends, relevant and timely topics – such as viral AI actress Tilly Norwood, who was presented and talked about by Particle6 CEO Eline van der Velden during last year's AI panel. The unique focus is on bridging the markets of Europe and the USA, creating meaningful exchange, unparalleled networking, and unique opportunities for cross-market collaboration. The prestigious gathering is held at the iconic 5-star The Dolder Grand luxury hotel.

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.

The 22nd edition will take place from September 24 to October 4, 2026.

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

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