

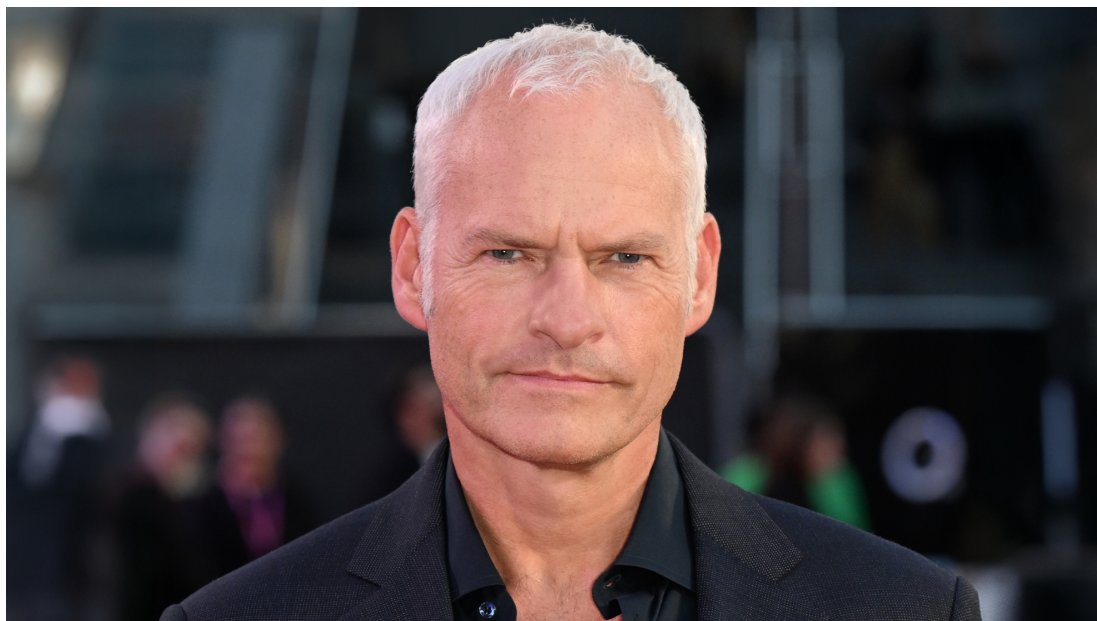
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Martin McDonagh Receives the A Tribute To ... Award

Zurich, August 6, 2026

The 22nd Zurich Film Festival honors Academy Award winner Martin McDonagh with its prestigious A Tribute To ... Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to cinema. The Irish writer and director will accept the award in person during the Gala Premiere of his latest film, WILD HORSE NINE.

The Zurich Film Festival is delighted to welcome Academy Award and BAFTA-winning writer and director Martin McDonagh as a guest of its 22nd edition. With acclaimed films including *IN BRUGES*, *THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING*, *MISSOURI* and *THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN*, McDonagh has created a distinctive cinematic voice, craftily blending razor-sharp dialogue, pitch-black humor and intricately rich characters. His films have left an indelible mark on contemporary cinema and have earned widespread international acclaim. Throughout his career, McDonagh has collaborated with some of the industry's most celebrated actors, including Colin

Farrell (recipient of the 2025 ZFF Golden Icon Award), Brendan Gleeson, Sam Rockwell and Woody Harrelson. *THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI* screened at the Zurich Film Festival in 2017, followed by the Gala Premiere of *THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN* in 2022. The latter went on to receive nine Academy Award nominations across eight categories during the following awards season. At this year's Zurich Film Festival, McDonagh will receive the A Tribute To ... Award during the Gala Premiere of his new feature *WILD HORSE NINE* (2026), in recognition of his outstanding contribution to filmmaking. He will also take part in a ZFF Masters, where he will offer audiences exclusive insights into his creative processes.

Like many of McDonagh's earlier works, *WILD HORSE NINE* explores dark and unsettling propositions: Shortly before the 1973 Chilean coup, CIA agents Chris (John Malkovich) and Lee (Sam Rockwell) set out to Easter Island from Santiago, where they are stationed alongside their boss and bureau chief, MJ (Steve Buscemi). Amongst the Island's iconic statues, as the longtime partners wrestle with their dark pasts and present conspiracies, Chris's newfound bond with a pair of rebellious students (Mariana di Girolamo and Ailín Salas) threatens to send everyone's trip to this remote paradise sideways.



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«Martin McDonagh is one of the most exciting auteur filmmakers of his generation», says **Christian Jungen, CEO of the Zurich Film Festival**. «He is a master of dark comedy and character writing. Through his personal signature style, he showcases a rare ability to captivate audiences through the interplay of meticulously crafted cinematography, atmospheric settings and clever storytelling, combined with an artistic intuition for striking the perfect balance between the absurd and the familiar. His wonderfully curious characters never fail to draw us in, and he has a remarkable gift for maneuvering them into absurd predicaments through screenplays of exceptional wit and precision. McDonagh's talent for eliciting complex and nuanced performances from his actors is a defining hallmark of his distinctive style. *WILD HORSE NINE* is no exception and, in our view, one of the standout films of the season. We have had the privilege of screening several of Martin McDonagh's earlier masterpieces, and we are delighted to honor his outstanding contribution to the art of cinema.»

Irish Wit and Pitch-black Humor

Martin McDonagh is an award-winning, London-born filmmaker and playwright of Irish descent. He first gained attention behind the camera with his Academy Award–winning short SIX SHOOTER, before going on to direct and write the critically acclaimed feature films – IN BRUGES, SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS, THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI, and THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN.

McDonagh has received widespread acclaim, including Academy Award nominations for Best Picture (THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI and THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN), Best Director (THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN), and Best Original Screenplay (IN BRUGES, THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI, and THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN). He has won six BAFTA Awards from 12 nominations, including Best Film and Best British Film (THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI), Best British Film (THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN), and three for Best Original Screenplay. He is also a three-time Golden Globe winner for Best Motion Picture – Drama (THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI) and Best Screenplay (THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI and THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN), and has received two Best Director nominations (THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI and THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN).

McDonagh is also an accomplished playwright. His works include *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Lonesome West*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *The Pillowman*, and *Hangmen*, all of which have been staged in both the West End and on Broadway, and performed in over 40 countries in more than 30 languages. His honors include an Olivier Award for Best New Comedy (*The Lieutenant of Inishmore*) and two Olivier Awards for Best New Play (*The Pillowman* and *Hangmen*).

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 Noah Baumbach, Edward Berger, Paolo Sorrentino, Wim Wenders, Olivier Assayas, Claire Denis, Michael Haneke, Oliver Stone, Mäiwenn, and Luca Guadagnino.

Zurich Film Festival

The Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) is the second-largest film festival in the German-speaking world, presenting the year's finest discoveries and most anticipated films over a span of eleven days each fall. It fosters communication between emerging directors, established filmmakers, the film industry, and audiences.

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

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

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