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NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

THE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2005 SCREENWRITER  
STEVE MARTIN AS NBC UNIVERSAL SCREENWRITER TRIBUTE

The Tenth Annual Festival Takes Place June 15-19, 2005

March xx, 2005 (New York, NY) – The 2005 Nantucket Film Festival will present **Steve Martin** with the NBC Universal Screenwriter Tribute, as announced today by Executive Director **Jill Burkhart** and Artistic Director **Mystelle Brabbee**. “We’re delighted to honor Steve Martin for our 10th anniversary. Although primarily recognized as an actor and comedian, his talent as a comedic screenwriter is unrivaled. This is a wonderful opportunity to share with the public a creative genius whose work onscreen and on the page has produced some of the funniest films of the last 30 years,” said Burkhart & Brabbee. The annual festival, which celebrates the art of screenwriting, takes place on the island of Nantucket on June 15–19, 2005.

Past NBC Universal screenwriter honorees include **Ruth Prawer Jhabvala**, **James Schamus**, **Jay Presson Allen**, **Paul Schrader**, **Walter Bernstein**, **Ring Lardner Jr.** and most recently, **2005 Academy Award® winner Charlie Kaufman** for Best Original Screenplay *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. The NFF9 NBC Universal Tribute speakers included Michel Gondry, Spike Jonze and Jim Carrey.

“Great movies and television shows alike depend on brilliant writing, so it is with pleasure that we give this honor to Steve Martin, who is not only an incredibly gifted actor but also one of the most accomplished screenwriters in the business,” commented **Bob Wright**, GE Vice Chairman and NBC Universal Chairman & CEO.

Martin just completed production on “The Pink Panther”, a reimagining based on the old characters of the 1964 Peter Sellers film of the same title. He co-wrote the script and will play the role of Inspector Clousseau. Martin will be seen in “Shopgirl” co-starring Claire Danes and Jason Schwartzman, which is being released this fall. The screenplay was written by Martin and adapted from his best-selling novella of the same name. “Shopgirl” follows the complexities of a comical romance between a young girl, who works at the Los Angeles Saks Fifth Avenue glove counter while nurturing dreams of being an artist, and a wealthy older man, who is still learning about the consequences that come with any romantic relationship.

Martin became a television writer in the late 1960’s winning an Emmy for his work on the hit series “The Smother Brothers Comedy Hour.” His first film project, “The Absent-Minded Waiter,” a short he wrote and starred in, was nominated for an Academy Award in 1977. In 1979, he moved into feature films, co-writing and starring in “The Jerk.” Martin then co-wrote and starred in the 1982 send-up of detective thrillers, “Dead Men Don’t Wear Plaid,” and the science fiction comedy, “The Man With Two Brains”.

In 1991, Martin wrote, starred in, and co-executive produced the critically acclaimed comedy, “L.A. Story,” a romantic fantasy comedy. Martin also wrote and starred opposite Eddie Murphy in the hilarious 1999 feature comedy “Bowfinger” about a desperate movie producer who fails to get a major star for his bargain

basement film, and decides to shoot the film secretly around him. The film was showcased at the Deauville International Film Festival.

In the fall of 1993, Chicago's prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre presented Martin's first original play, the comedy-drama "Picasso at the Lapin Agile." Based on a fictional meeting between a young Pablo Picasso and a young Albert Einstein at a Paris Cafe at the turn of the 20th Century, the play received rave reviews and was presented in Boston and Los Angeles, and then off-Broadway in New York at the Promenade theatre. It has since been, and continues to be, mounted in productions worldwide. "The Underpants," a dark comedy Mr. Martin adapted from the 1911 play by Carl Sterneim, premiered Off-Broadway at the Classic Stage Company on April 4, 2002.

After the success of his first Novella, "Shopgirl," Martin's second novella, "The Pleasure of My Company," published by Hyperion, once again ranked on the bestseller lists around the country including the New York Times. He has also written a best selling collection of comic pieces, "Pure Drive," and his work frequently appears in the New Yorker and the New York Times.

The NFF® has established itself as a premier U.S. film festival that continues to present an intimate forum for screenwriters, producers, agents and development executives to enjoy the many notable films that will un-spool on the island. The festival screens both domestic and international features, world and U.S. premieres, shorts, docs and video from every genre, all selected with an eye towards storytelling. Q & A's with the writers and filmmakers follow each screening.

For five days in June on the island of Nantucket, Massachusetts, screenwriting is celebrated with screenings of over 50 feature-length and short films and is further explored through panel discussions, a screenplay competition, an emerging screenwriter's mentorship program an educational program for teens in addition to beach screenings.

This year, the Festival will also host the popular evening of late night storytelling in addition to staged readings of un-produced screenplays. Past staged readings have included the hilarious "Showstopper" by Anthony Barille & Geoffrey Nauffts, including the talents of Ben Stiller and Academy Award winner Marisa Tomei; the coveted screenplay of "A Confederacy of Dunces" by Scott Kramer was the centerpiece staged reading which featured Will Ferrell in the starring role in addition to Alan Cumming, Mos Def, and Rosie Perez.

For more information please visit our website at [www.nantucketfilmfestival.org](http://www.nantucketfilmfestival.org).

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