

Hollywood Legends Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award at Biola Media Conference

Producer of Raiders of the Lost Ark, Howard Kazanjian; Grammy Winning Composer, Al Kasha; and Veteran Filmmaker, Ken Wales to Receive Briner Impact Award

Studio City, CA :: April 24, 2009 - This Saturday, April 25th, the Biola Media Conference will roll out the red carpet for three veteran entertainment professionals who have achieved an unprecedented level of success both in Hollywood and as human beings, with the **Robert Briner Impact Award**.

This award was created to honor artists whose work has made a significant mark in mainstream culture through entertainment. The award was named for Robert Briner, who encouraged people of faith and conscience to enter media professions.

The Biola Media Conference is honored to present lifetime achievement awards to three remarkable media pioneers: Howard Kazanjian, Al Kasha and Ken Wales. Each exemplifies Robert Briner's worthy aspirations.

While some people of faith were busy abandoning Hollywood or boycotting the things that came from it, these three men were working hard at their crafts, making the most of the stations and the platforms they had been given.

Howard Kazanjian was producing Return of the Jedi and Raiders of the Lost Ark and developing other film and television projects. Ken Wales was struggling to bring Christy to the small screen and bringing the story of William Wilberforce to the big screen. Al Kasha who had won two Academy Awards for his work in writing the music for films such as Poseidon Adventure, came to faith later in life and had a remarkable impact on many.

"Today we stand on the shoulders of these great men who toiled quietly in parched fields," notes award presenter Mark Joseph. "And today we honor them with a special Briner Impact Lifetime Achievement Award to express our gratitude for their faithfulness and to recognize their pioneer efforts to integrate their faith into their art."

On Saturday, April 25th at the renowned CBS Studio Center lot, the Biola Media Conference continues its 14-year tradition of gathering leading experts to help attendees navigate the challenging world of film, TV and digital media. The main afternoon session will culminate with a video retrospective on the honorees careers and the award presentation, marking their achievements.

Howard Kazanjian is a multiple Oscar & Emmy winning producer/director and is most well known for having produced two of the highest grossing films of all time: Raiders of the Lost Ark and Return Of The Jedi. He is an acclaimed author, educator, & member of both the Film & TV Academy's who has worked with legends such as Alfred Hitchcock, Clint Eastwood, Francis Ford Coppola, and Billy Wilder.



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Al Kasha is an Oscar, Emmy, Golden Globe, and People's Choice winner as well as a Tony nominated Writer/Producer/Composer who has composed hits with Elvis, Aretha Franklin, and Donna Summer. He is best known for his Oscar winning hits *The Morning After* from *The Poseidon Adventure* and *We May Never Love Like This Again* from *The Towering Inferno*.

Ken Wales is a veteran film and Emmy nominated TV producer with credits that include the Golden Globe winning *East of Eden*, *Cagney and Lacey* and *Christy* TV series – and films such as *The Tamarind Seed*, *The Great Race*, *Revenge of the Pink Panther* and the 2006 release, *Amazing Grace*. He is currently developing scripts for *Chariots of Fire*, the sequel, and *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis.

Opening the conference will be Mark Zoradi, President of the Disney Motion Picture Group. Followed by workshops that will tackle diverse aspects of how attendees can land themselves and their projects past the finish line. The Biola Media Conference will close out the day with a very rare public appearance and Q & A Keynote Session with Joe Eszterhas, acclaimed writer of *Basic Instinct*, *Jagged Edge*, *Footloose* and *Showgirls*, about his craft and how his new-found-faith has affected his life and career.

The Biola Media Conference is known for its intimate and practical conversations with leading Hollywood professionals, professional training and instruction from some of the most influential individuals in Film, TV, PR, Media Marketing, Management and Digital Media. Conference topics cover every aspect of media related careers, technologies, and ministries from the creative, to the financial, to the production process.

The Biola Media Conference is sponsored by Biola University's acclaimed Cinema and Media Arts Department. For more information or to register online, visit www.biolamedia.com. Lunch provided.

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