9-13-2005

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- Director William Friedkin and his wife, former Paramount Pictures chairwoman Sherry Lansing, will accept the honor at the university's American Celebration black-tie gala, Nov. 5, 2005.

- The event raises funds for student scholarships.

ORANGE, Calif., Sept. 14, 2005 Chapman University announced the 2005 recipients of its Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award: director William Friedkin and his wife, former studio chief Sherry Lansing.

The annual award recognizes individuals in the arts and entertainment world whose presence and body of work exemplify commitment, excellence and challenging oneself to reach for one's dreams.

It will be presented live at Chapman's 2005 edition of American Celebration, an original song-and-dance extravaganza created and performed by Chapman students, faculty, staff and alumni. Following the stage show is the gala dinner and award presentation.

Friedkin is an Academy Award and Golden Globe-winning director and producer of many well-known films, including The Exorcist and The French Connection. Lansing is the former chairwoman of the Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures and was the first woman named to head a major studio when she took control as president of 20th Century Fox in 1980.

Previous award recipients include married actors James Keach and Jane Seymour, multiple Emmy Award-winner Doris Roberts, Schindlers List producer Gerald R. Molen, actor Karl Malden, Oscar-winning composer Elmer Bernstein, singer Natalie Cole, actor/dancer Gregory Hines and singer/actress Nell Carter.

American Celebration, now in its 24th year, will take place Saturday, Nov. 5. Ticket prices begin at $1,000 per person. For more information, call (714) 744-7958.