

Santa Barbara International Film Festival

ED HARRIS RECEIVES KIRK DOUGLAS AWARD

By RICHARD PAYATT / CASA



Pollock (2000)

Ed Harris Partial Filmography

- Once Fallen (2009)
- Touching Home (2009)
- Appaloosa (2008)
- National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007)
- Cleaner (2007)
- Gone Baby Gone (2007)
- Copying Beethoven (2006)
- Two Tickets to Paradise (2006)
- Winter Passing (2005)
- A History of Violence (2005)
- Radio (2003)
- The Human Stain (2003)
- Masked and Anonymous (2003)
- The Hours (2002)
- Just a Dream (2002) (voice)
- A Beautiful Mind (2001)
- Buffalo Soldiers (2001)
- Enemy at the Gates (2001)
- Pollock (2000)
- The Prime Gig (2000)
- Waking the Dead (2000)
- The Third Miracle (1999)
- Stepmom (1998)
- The Truman Show (1998)



The Right Stuff (1983)

- Absolute Power (1997)
- The Rock (1996)
- Eye for an Eye (1996)
- Nixon (1995)
- Apollo 13 (1995)
- Just Cause (1995)
- Milk Money (1994)
- China Moon (1994)
- Needful Things (1993)
- The Firm (1993)
- Running Mates (1992) (TV)
- Glengarry Glen Ross (1992)
- Paris Trout (1991)
- State of Grace (1990)
- The Abyss (1989)
- Jackknife (1989)
- To Kill a Priest (1988)
- Walker (1987)
- The Last Innocent Man (1987) (TV)
- Sweet Dreams (1985)
- Code Name: Emerald (1985)
- Alamo Bay (1985)
- A Flash of Green (1984)
- Places in the Heart (1984)
- Swing Shift (1984)
- The Right Stuff (1983)
- Under Fire (1983)
- Creepshow (1982)
- KnightRiders (1981)
- Dream On! (1981)
- Borderline (1980)
- Coma (1978)



The Hours (2002)

ACTING IN OVER SEVENTY FILMS, Ed Harris, the superb shape-shifting artists of cinematic arts, received this year's Kirk Douglas Award For Excellence In Film from the Santa Barbara International Film Festival last Thursday at the Four Seasons Biltmore. Mr. Douglas's award stands as a token of the respect Harris engenders.

"If somebody told me when I was a kid watching *Spartacus* that at 58 I would be sitting next to Kirk Douglas getting an award from him... well... I would say... Well...?" shared Harris, as he received the award.

The event, at the newly reopened Coral Casino, was a perfect evening. Coming toward the end of a sizzling hot week, the temperature cooled by the time that the guests arrived. The brilliant white of the building set off the blue of the ocean, and the pink and purple haze of a magnificent Santa Barbara sunset.

But, back to Mr. Harris. A speechless actor is a rare thing. A speechless Ed Harris is positively delightful. Harris is an actor's actor: a man who can convey so much with his tone and delivery; a man who can say quite a bit with a long thoughtful look and a raised eyebrow. An audience can read his thoughts in his face. But receiving this award left him flatfooted. He fumbled for words. He grinned like a schoolboy. Stumped. Awed. This is what makes the awards at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival so much fun.

The warm weather found the ladies attired in wonderfully revealing dresses, showing off a constellation of diamonds. (No rhinestones for this event.) And in the long sunlight, the fire from the diamonds blazed. The gentlemen were largely, but sadly not exclusively, attired in the requested black tie. Harris looked especially dashing

in his tuxedo. It is perhaps an odd coincidence that he claims that one of his most embarrassing experiences was modeling tuxedos at the Oklahoma State Fair when he was 21.

There were fine speeches from Roger Durling, Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Film Festival, Jeffery Barbakow, President of the Festival's board of directors, and the lovely Amy Madigan, Ed Harris's wife and frequent co-star. Madigan aptly noted from the podium, "You would think that it must be easy to introduce your husband." And, of course, it was not. With 25 years of marriage behind them, she roamed

from the endearingly personal to the keenly professional sides of Harris. She summed up his work, and perhaps their marriage, with: "Talent is sexy. Truth is sexier."

The hit of the evening, of course, was Kirk Douglas. Attended by his wife Anne and his son Peter, Kirk made

his leisurely way down the red carpet. The cameras flashed on him. The cameramen craned to speak to him and shake his hand. Even Roger Durling, Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Film Festival, ran over to take pictures with his own pocket camera. Now that's admiration!

From the podium, Kirk was just as charming as Ed Harris. He began with the singular observation: "After I had my stroke, I said, 'I can't talk.' [Anne] said, 'For a guy who can't talk, you sure do talk a lot.'" His speech is a little difficult to discern, sometimes. You have to listen to make out his words. But, his voice, his humor, and his dignity shine through every word. He noted with irony, "Ed has four Oscar nominations." He paused for the applause. "I have only three!" The room roared with laughter. "I have never felt so proud as I do now, to award the Kirk Douglas Award to this man. There is none better than Ed Harris."

Sidebar: Ed Harris's stars in his latest film, *Appaloosa*, which was also directed and co-written by Harris. It co-stars Viggo Mortensen and Jeremy Irons. Currently in production for Harris is *Once Fallen*, which was written and directed by Kirk Douglas Awards guest, Ash Adams.

For more information about the Santa Barbara International Film Festival call 943-0023 or visit www.sbiff.org.



Ed Harris



Amy Madigan and Ed Harris



Ed Harris, Kirk Douglas, and Anne Douglas



George Farlow, *Once Fallen* Producer



Stewart Whitman



Ash Adams, *Once Fallen* Director

Santa Barbara
INTERNATIONAL
Film
FESTIVAL



Brian Priestly, *Once Fallen* actor



Janet Garufus, Montecito Bank & Trust



Ed Rodriguez; Roger Durling, SBIFF Executive Director; Caroline Butcher; Jerry Kroll; Tamara Diamond; Phyllis Amerikaner; Dan Launsbach, Karen Kledzik, and Ken Rogers