

THE LOS ANGELES BREAKFAST CLUB® EST. 1975

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April at The Los Angeles Breakfast Club®: TCM's Ben Mankiewicz, Dr. Demento, and More

(LOS ANGELES - March 25, 2025) – The Los Angeles Breakfast Club, a 100-year old 501(c)(3) organization based in Los Angeles is excited to announce a packed month of programming this April, including the return of Turner Classic Movies (TCM) with **Ben Mankiewicz** in a tribute and unofficial lead-up to the **16th TCM Classic Film Festival**, which will run Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, April 27, 2025 and feature programming with the theme “Grand Illusions: Fantastic Worlds on Film.”

But first, the month of programming kicks off with **Dr. Demento (Barry Hansen)**, on his 84th birthday, Wednesday, April 2nd, exploring his thrilling 55-year odyssey as “America’s Most Unusual Disc Jockey” and playing some of his favorite songs.

Dr. Demento has been celebrating "mad music and crazy comedy" on the airwaves for over five decades. He is responsible for introducing the world to the Dr. Demento Show's most requested song of all time, "Fish Heads," and launching the career of "Weird Al" Yankovic. Throughout the years, the world-famous Doctor's influence on pop culture has earned him induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame, an hour long Anniversary special on Comedy Central, featured guest appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman*, *Larry King Live*, and countless others including *The Simpsons*. Dr. Demento is a world-renowned record collector and music historian, whose lifelong passion for music of all kinds is reflected in the weekly selections heard on the Dr. Demento Show.

Then, just in time for the classic cinema festival, the club welcomes back TCM for the 4th year with a guest speaking appearance from **Ben Mankiewicz** on April 23rd, with guest moderator Los Angeles Times Film Critic and LABC member **Amy Nicholson**.

Ben Mankiewicz, the longtime host of Turner Classic Movies (TCM), as well as host of popular podcasts *The Plot Thickens* and *Talking Pictures*, joins us for a morning of conversation about classic cinema, his former career in journalism, and his own family's rich film history.

When Mankiewicz made his TCM debut more than 20 years ago in September 2003, he became only the second host hired in the network's history. During his career at TCM, he has introduced thousands of movies on the air and has interviewed more than two hundred of the industry's top talents, including Steven Spielberg, Mel Brooks, Ava DuVernay, Robert Redford, Pam Grier, Quentin Tarantino, Jodie Foster, Michael Douglas, and Tom Hanks.

Amy Nicholson is the film critic of the Los Angeles Times. She is a current on-air voice at LAist and KCRW, and a member of the Los Angeles Film Critics Assn. and the National Society of Film Critics. Her book *Tom Cruise: Anatomy of an Actor* was printed by Cahiers du Cinema/Phaidon Press, and her second, *Extra Girls*, will be published by Simon & Schuster. Nicholson also co-hosts the movie podcast *Unspooled* alongside previous LABC presenter Paul Scheer.

The Los Angeles Breakfast Club has many traditions as old as the club itself, but a visit from TCM in April is a more recent tradition. Last year TCM host Dave Karger stopped by to share tales from behind the scenes of "Hollywood's most storied awards show" featured in his book *50 Oscar Nights*. In 2023, TCM's *Noir Alley* host Eddie Muller spoke on his work restoring and preserving film noir, and Alicia Malone presented on women in film the year prior, sharing insights from her book *Girls on Film*.

"The Los Angeles Breakfast Club is thrilled to welcome the TCM family back for a fourth year," said Club President Mickey Corcoran. "Festival-goers who want a little extra TCM excitement before the festival kicks off will feel right at home here at Friendship Auditorium among fellow movie lovers."

Additional April programming includes breakfast events featuring:

- **Wednesday, April 9: Allee Willis Wonderland**

A celebration of "the Queen of Kitsch" and her legendary Streamline Moderne home: Allee's good friends **Hillary Carlip** and **Charles Phoenix** will take the audience on a tour of their new, limited edition pop-up book *Willis Wonderland*,

celebrating Allee's singular artistry, bold vision, and infectious joie de vivre. *Book signing after the presentation with 100% of book proceeds going to the Willis Wonderland Foundation*

- **Wednesday, April 16: Los Angeles Before the Freeways**

Author, historian and preservation advocate **Nathan Marsak** will look into the lush Los Angeles that no longer exists through stunning images from 1850–1950 taken by noted photographer Arnold Hylan. These photos recall an era when downtown LA was unmarred by wide-scale redevelopment and retained much of its original character. *Book signing after the presentation.*

- **Wednesday, April 30: Knott's Bear-y Tales**

From the imagination of designer and Disney Legend Rolly Crump, Knott's Bear-y Tales was a wild ride that only existed at Knott's Berry Farm for eleven years, but left a lasting legacy. With photos, illustrations, video and the ride's original musical soundtrack, **Christopher Merritt** and **Eric Lynxwiler** will transport the audience into a dark ride unlike any other. *Book signing after the presentation, which will include previous LABC presenter Rolly Crump's son **Chris Crump**.*

All events will take place at Friendship Auditorium in Griffith Park, where the Club has held weekly breakfast meetings since 1965. Friendship Auditorium, named as a nod to the Club's tagline "The Shrine of Friendship," was dedicated in a ceremony on November 3, 1965 after being built with Club funds and donated to the City of Los Angeles.

The meeting is open to the public and the club invites festival-goers in Los Angeles and from out of town to add it to their itinerary and participate alongside club members. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at labreakfastclub.com/events.

For more information on the festival, please visit filmfestival.tcm.com.

#

About The Los Angeles Breakfast Club:

The Los Angeles Breakfast Club, a 501(c)(3) organization nicknamed "The Shrine of Friendship," is where real people meet for breakfast to become more informed, effective members of their community, by providing an educational forum for preserving, maintaining and celebrating history, culture, and community on a local level in the Los Angeles region and as applied to the broader world. The Los Angeles Breakfast Club meets

weekly at 7:00 AM Wednesday mornings at Friendship Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. For more information, please visit LABreakfastClub.com/press.

Press Contact:

Brianne Richard

press@labreakfastclub.com