



Women In Film/Chicago 2006 Focus Awards:

Chicago, IL: Women In Film/Chicago was honored to bestow its 2006 Focus Award upon actress/director Bonnie Hunt and television producer Thea Flaum.

The luncheon gala awards event was held at the Ritz/Carlton in Chicago. First Lady of Chicago Maggie Daley and Brother Pat Hunt presented the award to Bonnie Hunt. Thea Flaum received her award presented by Dan Lombardi, Jack Wilson and Tom Weinberg. Amy Jacobson of NBC5 hosted the celebration.

Both recipients were stunning and admirable. Upon acceptance, Thea Flaum inspired the audience by speaking to what it takes to thrive in the industry as a woman. Bonnie Hunt likewise addressed her struggle and told of how, when she was an oncology nurse, a dying patient convinced her not to fear failure. The families of both recipients attended along with approximately 300 attendees.

A committee of members led by Awards Chair Vivian Craig planned the event. Women In Film/Chicago received strong support from this event from sponsors and advertisers. A donation of support to Women In Film/Chicago was also received from Paul Newman. HD Expo sponsored the cocktail reception prior to the presentation and advertisers included Pixar Animation and Sydney Pollack.



Women In Film/Chicago Board of Directors with 2006 Focus Recipients. Pictured (left to right) Selina Hood, Carrie Miller, Jenny Polk, Jeanette Beauregard, Ris Sanders, Stacie Hawkins, Thea Flaum, Bonnie Hunt, Julie Mynatt, Alison Hanold, Vivian Craig, Mindy Hilt

The Women In Film/Chicago Focus Award honors women who have contributed significantly to the film, television, advertising and corporate productions industries, and who have a tie to Chicago and the Midwest.

Bonnie Hunt, actor, director and producer is well known for her roles in such movies as 'Cars', 'Cheaper By The Dozen', 'Jumanji' and 'Stolen Summer'. Ms. Hunt also co-starred, directed and served as screenwriter for the 2000 release 'Return To Me', filmed in her own Chicago neighborhood. Ms. Hunt received Golden Globe nominations for Best Actress in a Television Series in 2002 and 2003.

Thea Flaum serves as a beacon for the Chicago production community. Following the position of Executive Producer at WTTW, Ms. Flaum founded her own Chicago based independent production company, 'Thea Flaum Productions', in 1984. She has earned nine Emmy awards, ten international film awards, a Cine Golden Eagle and a Golden Apple. She recently served as Vice President of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Amy Jacobson has been with NBC5 News since 1996. She has covered major assignments from the Cubs pennant race to the Salt Lake Olympics. Ms. Jacobson received Chicago Emmys for her news coverage in 2000 and 2002. She is a native of Mount Prospect, Illinois.

Women In Film started over thirty years ago by a small group of influential women in Hollywood upon discovering through a confidential survey that women wrote only 2% of television scripts. Since then, this network of women has grown internationally with over forty WIF chapters worldwide spanning four continents, eighteen countries and 10,000 global members.

Women In Film/Chicago is a not-for-profit organization aimed at providing an educational and literary community promoting women at all levels in the media creation industry through mentorship programs, career development opportunities and community resources.

Contact Women In Film/Chicago at 100 W. Kinzie, 3rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60610 - 312-884-5000; 312-884-0084 fax. Visit the website: www.wifchicago.org.