



Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SET TO AWARD
MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL AND JESSE EISENBERG

At its 60th edition this year, the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival will present its President's Award to two distinctive personalities who have significantly shaped contemporary world cinema. In their work, director, screenwriter, and actress Maggie Gyllenhaal and the multifaceted actor, director, screenwriter, and author Jesse Eisenberg transition smoothly between charismatic performances and bold auteur filmmaking.

"We at the festival are glad to be able to welcome two creative individuals whose work as actors, screenwriters, and directors is representative of contemporary trends in cinema and whose films are an intense experience for audiences," says KVIFF's Executive Director Kryštof Mucha.

"Maggie Gyllenhaal and Jesse Eisenberg are distinguished by a certain 'trans-Atlantic' sensitivity. Their work as actors and directors has the ability to connect the New World and Europe while drawing on the most essential elements of both traditions. The humor of New York intellectuals is combined with wisdom, talent, and an original way of seeing the world," adds Artistic Director Karel Och.



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At the opening ceremony of the 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, the President's Award will be presented to Golden Globe winner and two-time Academy Award nominee Maggie Gyllenhaal – an actress, director, producer, and screenwriter whose career is full of thought-provoking and groundbreaking work.



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At the Karlovy Vary festival, Maggie Gyllenhaal will present her film *The Bride!* (2026), which she wrote, directed and produced. The film is an imaginative continuation of the classic Frankenstein story, influenced by both the 1935 film *Bride of Frankenstein* and Mary Shelley's original masterpiece. With Warner Brothers at the helm, the film stars Jessie Buckley, Christian Bale, Annette Bening, Penélope Cruz, Peter Sarsgaard and Jake Gyllenhaal.

Previously, Gyllenhaal made her feature directorial debut with her adaptation of Elena Ferrante's novel *The Lost Daughter*, starring Olivia Colman, Dakota Johnson, and Jessie Buckley, for which she also wrote the screenplay. The film went on to be nominated for three Academy Awards for Best Actress (Colman), Best Supporting Actress (Buckley) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Gyllenhaal). The film also won Gyllenhaal three Independent Spirit Awards (Best Feature, Best Director and Best Screenplay); four Gotham Awards (Best Feature, Bingham Ray Breakthrough Director Award, Best Screenplay, Outstanding Lead Performance for Colman); The Venice Film Festival's "Golden Osella" Award for Best Screenplay; a Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in First-Time Feature Film; and a New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best First Film among many other wins and nominations. She was also named one of 2022's Directors to Watch by both *Variety* and the Palm Springs International Film Festival.



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Gyllenhaal won acclaim in 2002 for *Secretary*, starring opposite James Spader, for which she won a National Board of Review award and both Golden Globe and Independent Spirit Award nominations. She followed with Laurie Collyer's *Sherrybaby* (2006), a painful look at a young woman getting out of prison and hoping to reclaim her child, which earned her a second Golden Globe nomination. *Sherrybaby* won the Crystal Globe for Best Film at the 2006 Karlovy Vary IFF, while the Best Actress Award was awarded to Maggie Gyllenhaal.

In 2009, she starred opposite Jeff Bridges in *Crazy Heart*, earning her an Oscar nomination. Other notable film performances include *Donnie Darko* (2001), *Mona Lisa Smile* (2003), *Stranger Than Fiction* (2006), *The Dark Knight* (2008), *Nanny McPhee Returns* (2010), *Frank* (2014) and *The Kindergarten Teacher* (2018) among many others.

Gyllenhaal moved into television with BBC/Sundance's *The Honourable Woman* (2014), for which she won a Golden Globe Award and received SAG and Emmy nominations. And in 2019, Gyllenhaal concluded her three-season run as the sex worker Candy who becomes a film director in the HBO drama *The Deuce*, which she also produced. Her performance earned her rave reviews, and both Golden Globe and Critics Choice Award nominations.

She's equally at home on stage. She played Priscilla in Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* (2004) in both Los Angeles and at BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). She also starred as Yelena in *Uncle Vanya* (2009) and Masha in *The Three Sisters* (2011), both alongside her husband Peter Sarsgaard at the Classic Stage Company in New York City. She debuted on Broadway in Sam Gold's revival of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* opposite Ewan McGregor in 2014.

She also collaborated with artist Matthew Barney on the experimental film *River of Fundament* in 2014, and her readings of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* can be heard on Audible.



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At the 60th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, the President's Award will be presented to actor, screenwriter, director, and producer Jesse Eisenberg, a two-time Oscar nominee and the recipient of numerous prestigious film awards.



Jesse Eisenberg is one of the most multifaceted figures in contemporary cinema. His first role was in the 2002 film *Roger Dodger*, which earned him an award for most promising young actor at the San Diego film festival. His performance in Noah Baumbach's family drama *The Squid and the Whale* (2005) earned him nominations for the Independent Spirit Award and the Critics' Choice Award. The apocalyptic horror comedy *Zombieland* (2009) was a box office hit; it was followed by the sequel *Zombieland: Double Tap* in 2019. In 2010, Eisenberg played Mark Zuckerberg in *The Social Network*, which earned him his first nominations for an Oscar, a Golden Globe, and a BAFTA Award. There followed Woody Allen's comedy *To Rome with Love* (2012), and four years later he again worked with the legendary director on *Café Society* (2016). In 2013, he appeared in the thriller *Now You See Me* and played a double role in *The Double* (2013), based on the story by

Fyodor Dostoevsky. Most recently, Eisenberg starred in the blockbusters, *Now You See Me: Now You Don't* (2025) and the new *Minions* film, *Minions and Monsters* (2026).

As a filmmaker, Eisenberg made his screenwriting and directing debut with the feature film *When You Finish Saving the World*, starring Julianne Moore and Finn Wolfhard as a mother and son trying to navigate their relationship. The film had its premiere at the Sundance and Cannes Film Festivals. Eisenberg subsequently aroused great attention with his second film, *A Real Pain* (2024), in which he and Kieran Culkin play cousins in



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search of their heritage. Eisenberg was nominated for an Oscar and a Golden Globe for Best Screenplay, and his screenplay won a BAFTA Award, the Waldo Salt Award at the Sundance Film Festival, an Independent Spirit Award, and numerous other prizes. He was also nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Actor, and Kieran Culkin's performance garnered an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.

His upcoming film as a writer/director, *The Debut*, stars Julianne Moore and Paul Giamatti. Eisenberg co-stars and wrote the music and lyrics for the film's musical-within-the-movie. It will be released in Fall 2026 by A24.

As a playwright, Eisenberg has had five plays produced in either New York or on London's West End. His first play, *Asuncion* premiered in 2011, and he appeared in the play's production at the Cherry Lane Theatre. *The Revisionist*, starring Vanessa Redgrave, had its premiere at the same theater in 2013. The dark comedy *The Spoils* ran in New York and London's West End. *Happy Talk*, with Susan Sarandon and Marin Ireland, premiered in 2019, and in 2025 Eisenberg performed his one-man show, *The Ziegfeld Files*.

Eisenberg has been a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker* magazine, is the author of *Bream Gives Me Hiccups* (Grove Press) and *When You Finish Saving the World* (Audible), which won the 2021 Audie Award for Best Original Work.

Outside his artistic work, Eisenberg is a non-directed kidney donor and a Polish citizen.

In honor of Jesse Eisenberg, the Karlovy Vary festival will screen *The Double*, directed by Richard Ayoade, in which Eisenberg plays the lead role.