

INDIECOLLECT

IndieCollect Honored by New York Film Critics Circle at Star-Studded Ceremony with Steve Buscemi as Presenter

On January 7, the New York Film Critics Circle bestowed its Special Award to IndieCollect for "essential work preserving American independent film."



IndieCollect's Cameron Haffner, Anastasia Cipolla, Sandra Schulberg and Eva Yuma

The NYFCC chose Steve Buscemi to present our award, which was a delightful surprise as we've restored three films that feature Steve -- *In The Soup* by Alex Rockwell, *Days Are Numbered* by Christine Vachon, and *Tommy's* by Barry Ellsworth. We sometimes joke that we should call ourselves the Steve Buscemi Restoration Company. (We sometimes joke that we should call ourselves the "Steve Buscemi Restoration Company.")



Steve, we want to restore your film, *Trees Lounge!*

A Star-Lit Night

Many of the directors and stars in the room had just flown in from the Golden Globes. Presenters included Alec Baldwin, Samantha Bee, Ethan Hawke, Spike Lee, Brad Pitt, Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, and Reese Witherspoon. Award recipients included actors Laura Dern, Lupita Nyong'o, Joe Pesci, Antonio Banderas and directors & screenwriters Marty Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino, Mati Diops, Boon Jong Ho and the Safdie brothers.

The IndieCollect team — Anastasia Cipolla, Cameron Haffner, Eva Yuma and I — were thrilled to be seated with colleagues Peter Becker (President of Criterion Collection), Michael Barker & Tom Bernard (Co-Presidents of Sony Pictures Classics), a very jet-lagged Antonio Banderas, and Ethan Hawke, whose film, *Chelsea Walls*, we archived and hope to restore.



Adam Sandler with Eva and Anastasia

Many people in the room congratulated us on our work, including Adam Sandler. (I am a huge fan of his, and loved *Uncut Gems*)

I was particularly touched that Laura Dern and Reese Witherspoon reached out to me afterwards with an offer to help. It will be wonderful to have their support as [we continue to raise funds](#) for restoration in 2020 of at least 10 more films directed by women.



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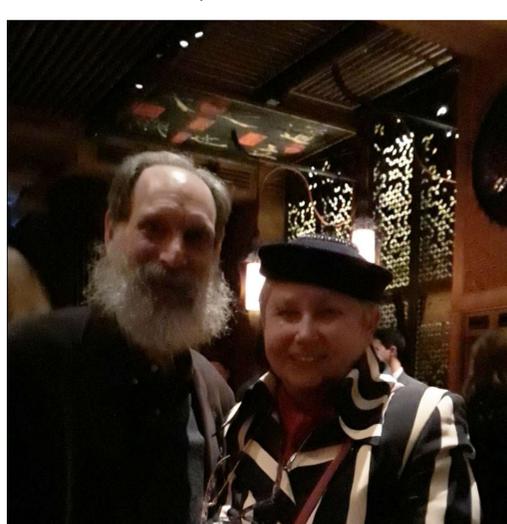
lauradern So honored to be included at last night's New York Film Critics Circle, and have my extraordinary friend, Reese, come join me with the most generous words there are. Congratulations to Antonio Banderas, Lupita Nyong'o, Joe Pesci, Quentin Tarantino, Claire Mathon, Mati Diop, Bong Joon Ho, Bennie and Josh Safdie, the teams from HONEYLAND, I LOST MY BODY, and the masterful THE IRISHMAN. The great work of Indie Collect. And a beautiful tribute to our maestro, Randy Newman. Very special night to witness. #newyorkfilmcriticscircleawards

Tribute to IndieCollect by The New Yorker's Richard Brody

The main tribute to IndieCollect — a full page in the NYFCC program book with a still from Jan Oxenberg's film — was penned by Richard Brody, whom we got to meet in person at last.

"In recent years, the rediscovery of boldly original independent films that were previously unreleased or long-unseen has expanded the map of the history of cinema — and brought unduly delayed recognition to some of its great artists. Several of the best of them, such as Jan Oxenberg's *Thank You and Good Night* and Horace B. Jenkins's *Cane River*, have been brought to light through the exemplary efforts of IndieCollect. This organization, founded by Sandra Schulberg (a longtime leader of independent filmmaking through her establishment of the Independent Filmmaker Project), takes a multifaceted approach to film preservation and restoration, starting with a comprehensive effort to catalogue American independent productions and to provide filmmakers with space to archive their work free of charge, and culminating in a wide range of restoration projects that lead to public screenings and releases. The diverse group of filmmakers whose work the organization restores is reflected in yet another project, the Queer Cinema Initiative, which joins a database and film restorations to revivals programming in order to bring rare works to viewers."

"Restoration and rediscoveries depend, first of all, on knowing what's there to be rescued; that requires the knowledge of a historian and the discernment of a critic along with the practicality of a producer. As hidden masterworks of marginalized independent filmmakers emerge, received notions of the history of cinema are shown ever more clearly to be somewhere between inadequate and delusional; not only have the works themselves and their makers been kept out of view, but the creative inspiration (not to mention the personal mentorship) to succeeding generations of filmmakers has been lost. By taking the lead in preserving and releasing great, nearly vanished films, IndieCollect is doing more than revising the history of cinema, it's opening pathways to the art form's better future." — Richard Brody



Richard Brody and Sandra Schulberg

We are profoundly grateful to Richard and to all of the members of the New York Film Critics Circle for recognizing the importance of IndieCollect's mission. Thank you!

Sandra Schulberg and the IndieCollect Team

PS: In accepting the award, I wanted to acknowledge how vital film critics are to the survival of indie films, so I recited a bit of doggerel in their honor.

Ode to the New York Film Critics Circle (and to your colleagues across the country)

**It's a Circle, it's true
We can't thrive, it's true.**

**With newspapers dying
We pray you're surviving.**

**You make our work stronger
And make it last longer,**

**Cuz critics discerning
Keep ideas a-churning.**

**So to cinephiles who write
With wisdom and delight,**

**Bravo! Brava! We say,
And Hip Hip Hooray!**

SAVED DOES NOT MEAN SEEN

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