

LOS ANGELES BALLET  
2017 *Gala*



HONOREE | LAWRENCE BENDER  
*American Film Producer*

Lawrence Bender's films to date include such hits as *Inglorious Basterds*, *Pulp Fiction*, and *Good Will Hunting*, and have been honored with 36 Academy Award® nominations, including four for Best Picture, and have won eight. His film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which raised unprecedented awareness about climate change, won the Academy Award® for Best Documentary Feature. His documentary, *Countdown To Zero*, featuring Tony Blair, Presidents Musharef, Gorbachev, De Klerk and Carter among others, details the urgent risk posed by proliferation, terrorism, and accidental use of nuclear weapons. Other films include *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Anna and the King*, *The Mexican*, *Innocent Voices*, and Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs*, *Jackie Brown*, *Kill Bill: Vol. 1* and *Vol. 2*.

Lawrence has also produced, *Havana Nights: Dirty Dancing 2*; *Knockaround Guys*; *A Price Above Rubies*; *White Man's Burden*; *Killing Zoe*; *Fresh*; and *Safe*. In 2016, he executive produced *The Forest*, Martin Scorsese's *Silence*, and Mel Gibson's *Hacksaw Ridge*. Most recently in television, his limited series *Flesh and Bones* about the world of ballet on Starz was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards® in 2016. Presently he is shooting for Fox 21 and Netflix the new drama *Seven Seconds*. This summer his movie he executive produced "An Inconvenient Sequel", the follow up to *An Inconvenient Truth*, will be released.

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## HONOREE | GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS *37th Governor of California*

Joseph “Gray” Davis was overwhelmingly elected the 37th governor of California in 1998, winning 58 percent of the vote. As Governor, he made education a top priority, signing legislation to strengthen California’s K-12 system by establishing the Academic Performance Index to increase accountability in schools, and expanding access to higher education with a record number of scholarships and college loans. These reforms improved student achievement scores for six consecutive years.

While presiding over California during an economic expansion, Davis made record investments in infrastructure, created four Centers of Science and Innovation on UC campuses, and expanded state health insurance for an additional one million children. He also was the first Governor in the nation to authorize stem cell research.

As Governor he demonstrated bold environmental leadership by signing the first law in the nation to reduce global warming and greenhouse gases. He also created the first Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Registry, and was the first to establish the nation’s most ambitious commitment to renewable energy by creating the statewide Renewables Portfolio Standard.

Despite a wave of Republican victories across the nation in 2002, Davis was re-elected to a second term.

Davis graduated from Stanford University (*Cum Laude*) and Columbia Law School, and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service during the Vietnam War. He served as lieutenant governor (1995-1998), state controller (1987-95), and state assemblyman (1982-86).

Davis is *Of Counsel* in the Los Angeles office of Loeb & Loeb, LLP where he provides strategic advice to clients on numerous matters. He is also a member of the bi-partisan Think Long Committee, a Senior Fellow at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, Co-Chair of the Southern California Leadership Council, and speaks before a number of civic and government organizations on important issues of the day. Governor Davis was also proud to be the Keynote Speaker at the Columbia Law School Graduation Ceremony in May of 2009.

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**HONOREE | SHARON DAVIS**  
*37th First Lady of California*

Sharon has served on several charity boards including the Southern California Chapter of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. In addition, she is a member of the Patron Ladies of the Los Angeles Ballet and The Trusteeship. Since 1999, she has served on the Board of Directors of Golden State Foods, which provides manufacturing and logistics for the Quick Service Restaurant industry. She is also an avid golfer.

Mrs. Davis business background includes foundation management, public relations and marketing. She was a founding partner The Davis/Miller Company and served as Director of The Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation (now Kroger's Foundation). She is married to Gray Davis, former Governor of the State of California and now a practicing attorney at Loeb & Loeb.

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EVENT HOST | MARK L. WALBERG

*Host of Antiques Roadshow*

Mark L. Walberg has hosted *Antiques Roadshow* since 2005. A fan favorite, Walberg admits to also being a long-time *Antiques Roadshow* fan who watches with his family. “With my 20-year career in game and quiz shows,” he said, “I know *Antiques Roadshow* has a winning formula: the excitement and challenge of finding out how much something is worth gets viewers to tune in, and along the way they get hooked by all the incredible history.”

During his television career, Walberg has hosted and been featured in an array of popular talk, reality competition, and game shows, including the nationally syndicated *The Mark Walberg Show* and the FOX hit *The Moment of Truth*.

He has hosted home improvement competitions, knowledge quiz shows, a relationship challenge show, the California state lottery program, and won *The Weakest Link* as a contestant playing for charity. Walberg also created and produced *Sunday Dinner* with friend and television personality Mark DeCarlo.