

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**Hermitage Artist Retreat Announces**

**Keynote Speaker for 2019 Muse Luncheon:**

**Actor, Author, and Social Activist Ali MacGraw**

**Tuesday, January 22, at Michael’s On East**

*The iconic actor who gave America “a new kind of heroine” will share moments of her journey from Hollywood and the fashion industry, to her current passion as a social activist.*

(Sarasota County) The Hermitage Artist Retreat recently announced that the keynote speaker for this year’s Muse Luncheon will be acclaimed actor, author, and activist Ali MacGraw. The event is Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Michael’s On East, 1212 S. East Avenue, Sarasota. MacGraw will speak about her years in the film and fashion industry and her involvement in philanthropy and social issues. Since 2016, the Muse Luncheon features a well-known American artist as the keynote speaker whose career has served as an inspiration and beacon to others. All proceeds are contributed to the Hermitage’s Endowment Fund. Ticket prices begin at $125 and may be reserved online at HermitageArtistRetreat.org, or by contacting Craig Badinger, development director, 941-475-2098, Ext. 2, or development@HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

“The Muse Luncheon is about inspiration,” said Bruce Rodgers, executive director of the Hermitage, “and Ali MacGraw has been on an inspiring journey her whole life, much of which has been out of the glare of the Hollywood spotlight. I can’t wait for our community to meet who Ali is now, and to find their own inspiration in her story.”

Ali MacGraw graduated from Wellesley College and began her professional career in 1960 as Diana Vreeland's assistant at Harper's Bazaar. After leaving Harper's Bazaar, she went to work as a stylist for fashion photographer Melvin Sokolsky in New York for six years.

MacGraw’s acting career began when producer Stanley R. Jaffe and director Larry Peerce offered her the leading role of Brenda Patamkin opposite Dick Benjamin in the screen version of Philip Roth's short novel, *Goodbye Columbus*. Her next film was *Love Story*, and it proved to be her major break. An original screenplay (and later a bestselling novel) by Erich Segal, the film earned MacGraw international fame, an Academy Award nomination, a Golden Globe award, and many additional honors worldwide. MacGraw’s third film, *The Getaway,* completed her trio of blockbuster films. After *The Getaway*, MacGraw took a five-year hiatus from Hollywood to raise her son Joshua, the son of Robert Evans. She returned to the screen to co-star in Sam Peckinpah's *Convoy*, with Kris Kristofferson. Her other film credits include *Players* and *Just Tell Me What You Want,* and TV’s *The Winds of War* and *Dynasty*.

MacGraw’s autobiography, *Moving Pictures* (Bantam Books), climbed The New York Times’ bestsellers list and went on to become an international bestseller. She also teamed up with Warner Home Video to create the instructional yoga video, “Yoga Mind & Body.” MacGraw currently lives in New Mexico. She travels extensively, appearing in documentaries and working on behalf of numerous social, animal and environmental causes.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by philanthropist Gerri Aaron; by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; and by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25 Florida Statutes).