

FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contacts:

Jason Fox Berger, Film Independent

jberger@film-independent.org

Seanna Hore, Ginsberg/Libby

seanna.hore@ginsberglibby.com

EGO NWODIM ANNOUNCED AS HOST OF 2026 FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

**Acclaimed Comedian and Actress to Host the 41st Annual Awards Show
February 15 at the Iconic Hollywood Palladium**

LOS ANGELES (December 9, 2025) – Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization dedicated to fostering independence and inclusivity in visual storytelling, announced this morning that acclaimed actress and comedian Ego Nwodim will bring her incredible talent and unique voice to the 2026 Film Independent Spirit Awards as the show's host. This 2026 Spirit Awards will mark the 41st edition of the annual awards show honoring the best of independent cinema and television.

"No stage celebrates the incredible work of these visionary artists and independent creators everywhere quite like the Spirit Awards," said Ego Nwodim. "I can't wait to join Film Independent for an afternoon of fun, laughs and a few surprises."

Nominations for the 2026 Spirit Awards were revealed on Wednesday, December 3 in a [video announcement](#). Winners will be announced at the awards show on February 15 at the Hollywood Palladium and will be streamed live on the [Film Independent](#) and [IMDb](#) YouTube channels, and across other social platforms, beginning at 2:00 pm PT. The Spirit Awards is Film Independent's primary fundraiser for its year-round slate of programs, which cultivate the careers of emerging filmmakers and promote diversity and inclusion across the film industry.

"We are thrilled to have the brilliantly talented Ego Nwodim joining us to host the 41st annual Spirit Awards," said Brenda Robinson, Acting President of Film Independent. "Ego has entertained audiences with her sharp wit and genius comedic timing for many years and we're excited to make her a part of Film Independent history. We are looking forward to a day filled with hilarity and joy as we celebrate excellence in independent film and television on February 15th."

An acclaimed actress and producer, Ego Nwodim spent seven seasons starring on *Saturday Night Live*, establishing herself as a groundbreaking voice in comedy and earning a Critics Choice Award nomination and two NAACP Image Award nominations in the process. During this time she has made a name for herself across a variety of mediums. On television she has appeared in the second season of Peacock's *Poker Face*, HBO's *It's Florida, Man* and Apple TV's anthology series *Roar*. In film she has performed in works such as Netflix's *Players*, IFC's *Spin Me Round* and Sony's *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. Additionally, Ego hosts her award-winning podcast *Thanks Dad* featuring an a-list lineup of guests such as Randall Park, Kyle Mooney and Bill Burr. She can soon be seen in Mindy Kaling's upcoming Hulu comedy *Not Suitable for Work*, on film in Netflix's comedy *Little Brother*, *Backyard Baseball*, an adaptation of the beloved video game, and Disney and Pixar's *Hoppers*. This Fall, Ego made her Off Broadway debut with a one-woman comedy show at Lincoln Center as part of "The Comedy Series."

Nwodim joins a long list of illustrious past Spirit Awards hosts including Aidy Bryant; Hasan Minhaj; Megan Mullaly and Nick Offerman; Melissa Villaseñor; Aubrey Plaza; Nick Kroll and John Mulaney; Kate McKinnon and Kumail Nanjiani; Fred Armisen and Kristen Bell; Patton Oswalt; Andy Samberg; Rainn Wilson; Joel McHale; Sarah Silverman; Samuel L. Jackson; Queen Latifah and John Waters.

The upcoming show will mark Executive Producer Shawn Davis in his 24th year with the Spirit Awards as well as the fourth collaboration with Emmy Award-winning Producer Eddie Delbridge of Live Digital Entertainment, an industry leader who has

produced events such as Space Launch Live: America Returns to Space, The Critics' Choice Awards, The MET Gala Live! and The Macy's Parade 360 Live. Also returning is Emmy Award-winning producer Andrew Schaff (Conan O'Brian: The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, 2025).

Film Independent Spirit Awards are supported by Premier Sponsor Lavazza Coffee, Principal Sponsor IMDbPro and Official Sponsor FIJI Water. Easterseals Disability Services is the accessibility partner. The London West Hollywood and W Hollywood are the Official Hotels. Getty Images is the Official Photographer. Vision Media is the exclusive screening partner.

Want to vote?

As always, winners are voted upon by Members of Film Independent. Members must be current as of December 16, 2025 to receive full voting benefits, including access to nominee screeners. To join Film Independent and vote on the Spirit Awards, please visit filmindependent.org/join to Join. Watch. Vote.

To learn more about attending the Spirit Awards and supporting Film Independent's mission and programs, please contact Jennifer Murby at jmurby@filmindependent.org.

To learn more about the Spirit Awards eligibility rules and regulations, please visit filmindependent.org/spirit-awards/faq.

The winners of the Film Independent Spirit Awards are voted on by Film Independent Members. Membership is open to the public. For more information or to become a member, visit filmindependent.org.

Press and publicist credential applications for the 2026 Film Independent Spirit Awards will open on December 3rd at filmindependent.org/press. For any questions regarding credentials, please contact Jason Fox Berger at publicity@filmindependent.org.

ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT

For over 40 years, Film Independent has helped filmmakers get their projects made and seen. The nonprofit organization's core mission is to champion creative independence in visual storytelling in all its forms and foster a culture of inclusion, in

support of a global community of artists and audiences who embody diversity, innovation, curiosity and uniqueness of vision.

In addition to producing the [Film Independent Spirit Awards](#), the organization supports creative professionals with [Artist Development](#) programs, grants and labs. Signature mentorship program [Project Involve](#) fosters the careers of talented filmmakers from underrepresented communities. Weekly Education events and workshops equip filmmakers of all ages and experience levels with tools and resources. International programs provide cultural exchanges and career-building opportunities for film professionals around the world. And year-round screening series [Film Independent Presents](#) offers a robust program of unique cinematic experiences, including screenings, conversations, Live Reads and Bring the Noise musical events.

For more information or to become a Member, visit filmindependent.org.

###