

Steven Spielberg

WINNER

2008 HUGH DOWNS AWARD
FOR COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT...

On behalf of Arizona State University, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, we are pleased to present the 2008 Hugh Downs Award for Communication Excellence to Steven Spielberg.

This year's award honors a man who has demonstrated the power of narratives to inform, persuade, and entertain, all the while reminding us of how important it is to be able to respect the past in order to imagine a better future.

In an age defined by global communication and shaped by our use of new communication technologies, it is right and fitting to honor an individual who has used film—and the innovations we associate with his films—to change how we think about our worlds, both real and imagined.

And in an age marred by enduring wars, injustice, poverty, cultural and religious prejudices and misunderstandings, it is through Mr. Spielberg's deeply moving accounts of how ordinary people working together find the collective will and individual strength to overcome fear, that we too learn how to talk anew amongst ourselves about what we can and must do in our own time to end what is wrong and to improve each other's lives where we can.

It is indeed a privilege to honor a man who himself has so honored human communication. For in each of his films, whether it be comedy or drama, history or documentary, the most poignant moments are often ones that feature characters, using nothing more or less powerful than the words they

speak or the actions they perform, to reveal all that makes us so human after all: our ability to give and receive friendship, hope, meaning and love; to show respect for ourselves and others, and for the differences among us, to share our passion as well as our vulnerabilities; to engage the great scientific and spiritual mysteries of life as well as our place and purpose in the cosmos and in our communities; and, perhaps most of all, to choose to do the right thing, the noble thing, the true thing, against all odds.

Mr. Spielberg is the acclaimed and award-winning writer, producer and/or director of over 100 films. From his early filmmaking classics "Duel," "Jaws" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"; through unforgettable historical dramas such as "Schindler's List," "The Color Purple" and "Saving Private Ryan"; or the engaging "Indiana Jones," "Jurassic Park" and "Back to the Future" series; to the more recent political and historical depictions of "Munich," "Flags of our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima," no other American filmmaker has produced such a range of work at so high a quality for so long a time. And clearly he is still in mid-journey, as two of his forthcoming films, "The Trial of the Chicago 7" and "Lincoln" will no doubt attest.

For

FOR THESE MANY EXCELLENT REASONS, AND FOR the communication work of this excellent man, we are proud to award the 2008 Hugh Downs Award for Communication Excellence to Steven Spielberg.

ASU HUGH DOWNS SCHOOL
of HUMAN COMMUNICATION
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

An academic unit of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences