

24TH FAMILY FILM AWARDS BROADCAST- PUBLICITY REPORT

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Dean Cain on hosting the 24th Family Film Awards



by: **Kimberly Cain, Sam Rubin**

Apr 21, 2021 / 10:34 AM PDT

The 24th Family Film Awards premieres tomorrow at 5 p.m. on Reelz.
This segment aired on the KTLA 5 Morning News, April 21, 2021.

<https://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/ann-margret-bye-bye-birdie-viva-las-vegas-elvis-presley-vietnam-troops>



Ann-Margret reflects on ‘Viva Las Vegas,’ visiting troops in Vietnam: ‘Being with them has been in my heart’

The 24th Family Film Awards airs Thursday, April 22 at 8 p.m. ET on Reelz

By Stephanie Nolasco | Fox News Published April 22, 2021

EXCLUSIVE: Ann-Margret was a Hollywood newcomer when she sang and danced her way to stardom in 1963’s “Bye Bye Birdie” – and she still manages to leave fans speechless decades later.

The 79-year-old recently attended the 24th Family Film Awards where she was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The star, who was once billed as the female version of Elvis Presley, has carved out her own successful decades-long career. She has gone on to win five Golden Globes and has been nominated for two Academy Awards.

Ann-Margret spoke to Fox News about achieving fame, working alongside The King in "Viva Las Vegas," heading to Vietnam to visit our troops, as well as her marriage to actor/producer Roger Smith.



(L-R) Ann-Margret and Julianne Hough attend the 24th Family Film Awards at Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City on March 24, 2021, in Universal City, California. (Photo by Amy Sussman/Getty Images)

Fox News: How does it feel to be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at this point in your life?

Ann-Margret: Well, first of all, I feel so very blessed at this time in my life. Everything's so exciting. But what can I say? I don't expect anything. And when things like this come my way, I just feel so thankful. I'm so thankful. I feel truly blessed that I'm still being remembered.

Fox News: Julianne Hough did a performance in your honor. What did you think of it?

Ann-Margret: She's amazing. She's a triple threat. She sings, dances and acts. She's a terrific lady and I enjoyed meeting her.

Fox News: What has kept you going as a performer?

Ann-Margret: Energy! I have so much energy. *laughs*. But ever since I was four years old, I wanted to be a performer. I was still in Sweden. My family, we all lived together under one house and we would harmonize all the time. We were a very musical family, always. So it has always felt very natural. And I would always perform any time we had people come over. When mother and I came to America, daddy had already come here about five years ago and it was during World War II. So of course, we had to wait because the war was going on.



Swedish-American actress Ann-Margret poses with an ocelot in a promotional still for 'Kitten With A Whip', directed by Douglas Heyes, 1964. (Photo by Silver Screen Collection/Getty Images)

Finally, daddy sent us tickets and we arrived outside of Chicago – Fox Lake, Illinois. I was six years old. I started school and I learned how to speak English very quickly. My mother learned from my aunts and uncles. So it took her a little while longer. But throughout that journey, our love of music never left us. And that love of performing has never left me.

Fox News: How nervous were you to take on the film "Bye Bye Birdie"?

Ann-Margret: Oh my goodness. I had no idea how much that film would change my life. I didn't know what it all meant. I just kept working very hard at it and did my absolute best. And I loved it. I think it shows. I never want to know what's going to happen to me in life. I want to be surprised.

Fox News: The film features so many screen legends. What was your relationship like with the cast?

Ann-Margret: It was great. My goodness. Bobby Rydell and I have remained friends this entire time. [My husband] Roger saw him perform in many places since then. He recently sent me his book and I learned about the trials and tribulations he went through. But that's called life, right? He went through such awful things. He's fine now and we're still great friends.



Actress Ann-Margret (L) and actor Bobby Rydell attend the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences screening of the newly restored, 'Bye Bye Birdie' at the AMPAS Theatre on April 27, 2011, in Beverly Hills, California. (Photo by Michael Buckner/Getty Images)

Fox News: When did you realize that you were famous? When did everything truly change for you?

Ann-Margret: It started changing immediately after "Bye Bye Birdie." And during "Viva Las Vegas". And by the time "Kitten with a Whip" came along, you just couldn't deny it anymore! *laughs*.

Fox News: It's been said that as soon as you became a star, you bought your parents a house.

Ann-Margret: I put it in their names, too. I was just so thrilled because they did everything in the world for me. Daddy was an electrician and mother was a housewife. But they did everything for me. They were very, very scared when I was going to Los Angeles because they've heard stories about Hollywood. I'm an only child and I was raised very strictly, but lovingly. They were just so scared that I would go with people who would hurt me. But that moment meant so much to me. I still get emotional when I think about it.



Ann-Margret has led a decades-long career in Hollywood. (Photo by Silver Screen Collection/Getty Images)

Fox News: You always appear effortless in your dance routines. Where did your confidence come from?

Ann-Margret: I'm glad it looks effortless *laughs*. Well, I absolutely loved it. When I was a little girl in Sweden, I came from a small village known as Valsjöbyn. I guess I'm the black sheep who decided to become a show business girl.



John Wayne holding Ann-Margret in publicity portrait for the film 'The Train Robbers', 1973.
(Photo by Warner Brothers/Getty Images)

Fox News: You worked with John Wayne early on in your career. What surprised you the most about him?

Ann-Margret: Oh, I didn't know what to expect. But when he hugged me, it's like the world was hugging me. He was so big and wide with that booming voice. We were shooting in Durango, Mexico and my parents came down to visit me. He was so great with my parents. So absolutely welcoming and gentle with them. And anybody who was great to my parents was on a throne in my eyes. I was friends with him forever. He was

never [pretentious]. He had so many friends and every single person loved him.

Fox News: What's one memory from your time filming "Viva Las Vegas" and working with Elvis Presley that makes you smile today?

Ann-Margret: Just thinking about "Viva Las Vegas," or anytime someone mentions it, I smile. It was one of the happiest times of my life. George Sidney, who directed "Bye Bye Birdie" also directed "Viva Las Vegas." And believe it or not, I had never seen E.P. perform.

I know that's hard to believe but I hadn't! I really got to see it when we were rehearsing, singing and dancing with each other. But we moved very much the same. And he loved his mother. I loved my mother and father. I had a great time. We were friends 'till the end. I had a great time.



Ann-Margret and Elvis Presley in the musical film 'Viva Las Vegas', 1964. (Photo by Silver Screen Collection/Getty Images)

Fox News: One of the most important moments of your career was when you went to Vietnam. How much of an impact did meeting those troops have on you?

Ann-Margret: It still has an impact on me to this day. I went in 1966 and 1968. I had gotten a long letter from G.I.s who wanted me to come over and see them. And of course, I wanted to go over the next day! But I had to wait. But I still have all the notes and letters I received from so many gentlemen. And ladies, too. Being with them has been in my heart the entire time and it will never, ever leave my heart. Never.

Fox News: What's one moment with a soldier during your visit that left a lasting impression on you?

Ann-Margret: I remember I went to the hospitals and saw those babies. We were all in the same age group. But when I saw them, I just cried and cried. I'm not a doctor. I'm not a nurse. All I could do was perform for them. With every performance I did, I was expressing my love for each and every one of them.



Thousands of service personnel listen to Ann-Margret sing one of her numbers during a show in Vietnam, circa 1966. (Photo by PhotoQuest/Getty Images)

I went to an event in Las Vegas not too long ago and there were two gentlemen from Vietnam. It felt wonderful to hug them, kiss them and just talk to them. I'm so thrilled that they're here on American soil. I'm an emotional person. It's just so hard for me to put into words what I feel for those men and women. That will never go away. And I will always love them. That will never leave me, no way. When those G.I.'s wrote to me, I really wanted to go the next day. But they're in my heart.



Ann-Margret at a U.S. base in Vietnam. (Getty Images)

Fox News: Looking back at your career, do you have any regrets? Is there something you wish you could have done differently?

Ann-Margret: Hmm, you know, whenever I see my movies, I usually see them in a screening room. I see it one time and that's it. You can ask my friends. I just see them one time and that's it. But no. I did the best that I could at the time and then it's over. You always think, "I hope it works. I hope people are entertained." But sometimes it doesn't work. But you keep at it if you really love it.

Fox News: You're still recognized as a sex symbol. How do you feel about the title?

Ann-Margret: What can I say? I think it's wonderful. I love it. I feel very happy that somebody sees me that way. It's in the eye of the beholder. So that's very, very nice.



Ann-Margret, circa 1965. (Photo by Silver Screen Collection/Getty Images)

Fox News: What's life like for you today?

Ann-Margret: I'm living in the same house that Roger and I bought in 1968. I have three step-children and we raised them here. One of them passed away a month after Roger passed away. Roger and I were married 50 years. Count them, 5-0. We still would have been married except he became very sick and passed away in 2017. We had just had our 50th anniversary. Big, big party. And every room here in this house is just him and I.



Roger Smith and Ann-Margret in the back of a limo; circa 1970; New York. (Photo by Art Zelin/Getty Images)

Fox News: What was the secret behind such a lasting marriage?

Ann-Margret: We both wanted it to work. You can't have one person bending over backward to make it work. Both of you have to want it. And we both did. Roger wanted to live so badly. He just kept coming back and coming back. But it was just too much [in the end]. It was an incredible marriage.



Ann-Margret and her husband Roger Smith in 2017. (Photo credit should read BRYAN R. SMITH/AFP via Getty Images)

Fox News: What do you hope people will get from your journey to Hollywood?

Ann-Margret: Here's the thing. I have always been passionate about performing. I did a screen test at 20th Century Fox where they just had me singing and dancing. Next thing you know they bleached my hair orange and I went on from there! You have to be really passionate about your work, whatever it is. Whatever your work is, you do the very best that you can. You could have a lot of nos, but if you're passionate about it, you just keep on doing it.

<https://celebritypage.com/reelz-channel-family-film-awards/particle-8>



[Exclusive Look at the Family Film Awards On REELZ Channel](#)

Robby Haynos Apr 22, 2021



The Family Film Awards are airing tonight on the [REELZ](#) Channel at 5 pm, and Celebrity Page TV has an inside look at all the festivities!

Ann-Margret Gets Honored

Everyone there, including former [Dancing With the Stars](#) champion [Julianne Hough](#), will be there to pay tribute to legendary actress Ann-Margret, who is receiving the lifetime achievement award at this year's festivities. Ann-Margret is a longtime actress and dancer who's starred in films like *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Viva Las Vegas*.

[Kate Flannery](#), who brilliantly portrayed Meredith Palmer on [The Office](#), said of the lifetime award, "Ann Margret - I can't think of one performance that wasn't spectacular, magical, original".

A Super Host

Speaking of the spectacular, who's more spectacular than Superman himself? [Dean Cain](#) will be hosting the ceremony that honors family above all else. Dean shared:

"For me, I've been preparing for this the last 20 something years, raising my son. Also, as a kid growing up, there were shows that our family watched together. Some of those were Happy Days, The Brady Bunch, The Partridge Family"

And, speaking of [The Brady Bunch](#), the entire cast has been honored with the iconic Television Award. The show ran from 1969-1974, and captivated audience who wanted to make the Brady family even bigger. Lloyd Schwartz, the main producer of *The Brady Bunch*, shared his thoughts on the prestigious honor.

"It's been a great thing to have people know every episode, and ask questions about it. You know, I threw the ball that hit Marsha in the nose, and I'm kind of afraid that might be on my tombstone"

On the movie side of things, screenwriter Bob Gale will be presented with the prestigious Film Award for writing the iconic *Back to the Future* trilogy. According to Gale, the moment he knew the series would be a hit is when he realized, "Oh my god, [Michael J. Fox](#) is Marty McFly".

Check out the Family Film Awards when they air tonight at 5pm on REELZ!

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/los-angeles/article/Winners-Announced-For-The-24th-Family-Film-Awards-Broadcast-On-REELZ-20210422>



Winners Announced For The 24th Family Film Awards Broadcast On REELZ

Dean Cain served as host of the ceremony taped at the Universal Hilton Hotel at Universal Studios

by [BWW News Desk](#) Apr. 22, 2021



Winners were announced for the 24th Family Film Awards in a broadcast airing this evening on REELZ. Honoring the best in family film and television, [Dean Cain](#) served as host of the ceremony taped at the Universal Hilton Hotel at [Universal Studios](#).

"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" won five awards for Outstanding Feature Film, Outstanding Director for a Feature Film, Outstanding Actor in a Feature Film, Outstanding Feature Film Screenplay and Outstanding Original Song for a Film.

"Last Man Standing" won Outstanding Television Series Comedy, [Anthony Anderson](#) won Outstanding Actor in a Television Comedy for "Black-ish" and [Wendi McLendon-Covey](#) from "The Goldbergs" and [Kristen Bell](#) from "The Good Place" tied for Outstanding Actress in a Television Comedy.

A true triple-threat, Emmy Award-winning dancer, singer and actress [Julianne Hough](#) honored legendary triple-threat Ann-Margret with a tribute dance performance and presented her with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Producer/Writer [Bob Gale](#) accepted the Iconic Film Award for "Back to the Future," presented by [Claudia Wells](#), and Lloyd Schwartz and the cast of "The Brady Bunch" accepted the Iconic Television Award presented by [Anson Williams](#) and Robbie Rist. Oscar winner [George Chakiris](#) ("West Side Story") presented [Donelle Dadigan](#), Founder and President of the Hollywood Museum, with the Founders Award.

Musical performances included "American Idol" alum [Haley Reinhart](#) performing the [Elvis Presley](#) classic "I Can't Help Falling in Love With You" and Esther Guigui performing "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

Roger Neal of Neal Entertainment serves as Executive Producer of the 24th Family Film Awards. Xiaoqiu Ma is the Chairwoman of the award show and telecast and Olympia Gellini is the Founder and President of World Film Institute and The Family Film Awards. Jeannie Yi is Co-Executive Producer, along with Michael Maizes of SFM Entertainment and Disrptr is the production company. The telecast was presented by DYF Entertainment and WFI.

THE 24TH FAMILY FILM AWARDS - FILM WINNERS:

Outstanding Feature Film

"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" ([Big Beach](#) Films, Tencent Pictures, TriStar Pictures)

Outstanding Feature Film Comedy

"Blinded by the Light" ([New Line Cinema](#), Warner Bros.)

Outstanding Director for a Feature Film

[Marielle Heller](#) - "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" ([Big Beach](#) Films, Tencent Pictures, TriStar Pictures)

Outstanding Actor in a Feature Film

[Tom Hanks](#) - "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" ([Big Beach](#) Films, Tencent Pictures, TriStar Pictures)

Outstanding Actress in a Feature Film

[Saoirse Ronan](#) - "Little Women" ([Columbia Pictures](#))

Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Feature Film

[Tim Allen](#) - "Toy Story 4" (Disney/Pixar)

Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Feature Film

[Scarlett Johansson](#) - "Jojo Rabbit" (Fox Searchlight Film)

Outstanding Feature Film Screenplay

Micah Fitzerman-Blue and Noah Harpster - "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" ([Big Beach](#) Films, Tencent Pictures, TriStar Pictures)

Outstanding Original Song for a Film

"Won't You Be My Neighbor? | A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" by [Fred Rogers](#) (as) composed by Nate Heller for "A Beautiful Day in The Neighborhood" ([Big Beach](#) Films, Tencent Pictures, TriStar Pictures)

THE 24TH FAMILY FILM AWARDS - TELEVISION WINNERS:

Outstanding Television Series Drama

"Finding Love in Quarantine" (PureFlix)

Outstanding Television Series Comedy

"Last Man Standing" (FOX)

Outstanding Actor in a Television Drama

David A.R. White - "Finding Love in Quarantine" (PureFlix)

Outstanding Actress in a Television Drama

[Ming-Na Wen](#) - "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." (ABC)

Outstanding Actor in a Television Comedy

[Anthony Anderson](#) - "Black-ish" (ABC)

Outstanding Actress in a Television Comedy (*Tie)

[Wendi McLendon-Covey](#) - "The Goldbergs" (ABC)

[Kristen Bell](#) - "The Good Place" (NBC Universal)

Outstanding Television Film

"This is our Christmas" (UPLIFT TV)

Outstanding Actor in a Television Film

[Chiwetel Ejiofor](#) - "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" (BBC Films)

Outstanding Actress in a Television Film

Jill Wagner - "Christmas Wishes and Mistletoe Kisses" (Hallmark Channel)