



Thompson Communications

580 Haddon Avenue; Collingswood, NJ 08108

609 / 386-0019 Fax 609 / 386-8579

steve@thomcomm.net

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Press Contact For
Cliff Robertson:
Steve Thompson/
Thompson Communications
609 / 386-0019



**ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
CLIFF ROBERTSON
PAYS TRIBUTE TO COLLEAGUE
AND CO-STAR MAUREEN STAPLETON
AT ACTORS STUDIO**

New York, NY (September 21, 2006) -- "Rarely is such a towering talent so under-appreciated," noted **Academy Award Winner Cliff Robertson**, commenting on his recent tribute to colleague and co-star **Maureen Stapleton**, who passed away on March 13, 2006

Invited as the **Guest of Honor** to address the **Master Class** at the **Actors**

Studio, now conducted by accomplished actress **Lee Grant**, Mr.

Robertson recalled working with Maureen Stapleton in the Broadway

production of **Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending."** Ms.

Stapleton also appeared in a supporting role in the 1959 film adaptation:

"The Fugitive Kind" directed by **Sidney Lumet**, starring **Marlon Brando**.

Mr. Robertson described how he remained in touch with Ms. Stapleton,

and spoke with her just last year about her continuing work in films, on

stage, and in television productions. "I am very grateful to **Lee Grant** for

inviting me to address the **Master Class** on behalf of my friend, colleague,

and co-star **Maureen Stapleton**, and I am especially thankful to the class

for their warm reception."

Born **Lois Maureen Stapleton**, in 1980 she earned the **Actors Studio**

Award for her contributions to the theater. She also earned an **Academy**

Award for **Best Supporting Actress**, an **Emmy Award**, two **Tony**

Awards, and was elected to the **American Theater Hall of Fame**.

Ms. Stapleton appeared in many well known films, including **"Airport,"**

Woody Allen's **"Interiors," "Reds," "Cocoon,"** and many, many others.

Her most recent film appearance was in the 2003 feature film **"Living and**

Dining."

(She was not related to actress Jean Stapleton.)

The Actors Studio is a membership organization for professional actors, theatre directors and playwrights located in the **Old Labor Stage** at **432 West 44th Street** in New York City (currently under restoration.) Founded in 1947 by **Elia Kazan, Cheryl Crawford, and Robert Lewis**, the Studio is known for its work refining and teaching method acting, The Studio came to worldwide recognition under the leadership of **Lee Strasberg**, who took over the helm in 1952. While at the Studio, actors work together to develop their skills in an experimental environment, where they can take risks as performers without the pressure of commercial roles.

From September 1994 through May 2005, the Studio collaborated with New School University in the education of Masters level theatre students at the **Actors Studio Drama School (ASDS)**. Beginning in Fall 2006, the **Actors Studio** is offering a three-year Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree program through **Pace University**.

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