

# CINEQUEST™

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## **Famed Author Neil Gaiman, Matthew Modine, & Father of Cell Phone Cinequest Maverick Spirit Award Recipients**

Cinequest Film Festival 2014 (CQFF24) continues the powerful integration of creativity and innovation, honoring key leaders from the worlds of entertainment and technology. Famed author, Neil Gaiman (*Stardust*, *Coraline*) will receive the Maverick Spirit Award, recognizing the unique and powerful cinematic creations. Multiple Golden Globe and Emmy-nominee, Matthew Modine (*The Dark Knight Rises*, *Jobs*) and “Father of the Cell Phone” Martin “Marty” Cooper, will be presented with the Maverick Innovator Award, spotlighting their use of innovative thoughts, methods and innovations to advance both their careers, industries and world. Cinequest empowers the voice and vision of youth through the power of film and technology; and Cinequest connects audiences, innovators and artists to media technologies, to the worlds of film and to each other.

Previous Maverick Spirit Award guest recipients have included: J.J. Abrams, Harrison Ford, Kevin Spacey, Sir Ben Kingsley, Alec Baldwin, Minnie Driver, Spike Lee, Gus Van Sant and Sir Ian McKellen. This year’s Maverick Innovator Awards are the first presented.

### **Maverick Spirit Awards**

NEIL GAIMAN – Often Neil Gaiman’s work gets categorized as Dark Fantasy. But Neil’s work strains against such limitations, starting from his first major work in the U.S., “The Sandman” comics, short stories, poetry, novels and screenplays have all sprung forth from his fertile imagination, yet his earliest writing was as a journalist, profiling the likes of Duran Duran and Douglas Adams. In recent years he has become a producer and a director, all while continually evolving as perhaps his most charming aspect: a true raconteur. If his own story must have a beginning, it was in Hampshire, U.K., though he currently lives in the U.S. He describes his young self as “...a feral child who was raised in libraries.” It seems destiny guided him to his role as “Prince of Stories” – the title of a critical retrospective of his work. While he has taken adults to *Neverwhere*, he reminds young and old to seek magic in *Stardust*. For the very young, he taught *The Dangerous Alphabet* and remembered *The Day I Swapped My Dad For Two Goldfish*.

Neil’s work gracefully straddles the media. You can find it adapted to film, but also inspiring radio plays, stage musicals and operas. Fulfilling a dream of that feral child in the library, he wrote an episode of *Doctor Who* in 2011, “The Doctor’s Wife,” as well as a 2013 bestselling novel, “The Ocean at the End of the Lane.” Having turned producer for *Stardust*, he has also directed two short films himself, one starring his wife, musician Amanda Palmer. It is with Amanda, perhaps, that we can at last find a definition for Neil’s work. In the purest most

Shakespearean sense – encompassing terror, adventure, magic, wonder, heroism, heaven, hell and love – Neil’s work, his gift to us and to himself, is Romance.

A recipient of many awards including four Hugos, the Newbery and Carnegie Medals, his book “The Ocean at the End of the Lane” was voted Book of the Year at the British National Book Awards in 2013. Gaiman works in the genres of science fiction, fantasy and horror and his stories are often titled after song names by Lou Reed, Joy Division and Broadway standards! Some of the multi-talented author’s notable works include *The Sandman*, *Neverwhere*, *American Gods*, *Stardust*, *Coraline*, *The Graveyard Book* and *Good Omens*. Mr. Gaiman will participate in this year’s Writers Celebration event, taking place on Sunday, March 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the San Jose Repertory Theatre.

### **Maverick Innovator Awards**

MARTIN “MARTY” COOPER - Innovator, entrepreneur and futurist Marty Cooper is considered to be the “father of the cell phone.” Inspired by Captain Kirk’s Communicator on *Star Trek*, Cooper conceived and led the team at Motorola to develop the first handheld mobile phone in the 1970s. Cooper was the first person in history to make a handheld cellular phone call.

“The artist and the engineer have many things in common. One is passion. How can you work on something for 20, 30 ... even 40 years, holding onto an idea you know is right...until the world eventually adopts that idea?” - Marty Cooper

Cooper exemplifies the never-ending passion needed to fuel great creations of science and art. In a world where instantaneous success often replaces lasting impact, Marty’s life and work showcase a brilliant mind, ebullient spirit, and massive heart. Marty believed, before it seemed possible, that people wanted to connect with people and do it while being mobile. He saw the world we all enjoy today, and because of his vision, innovations, leadership and persistence the cell phone has become a powerful global tool of communication and creativity. Yet it took Marty 30 years to make his vision a reality. Most would have given up after 30 days or 30 months of seeming failure.

Cooper is a world-renowned expert on technology and innovation and its impact on business and society. He is widely regarded as one of the leading inventors of our time and has spent most of the past five decades creating some of the world’s most important business and technological concepts and offerings. Cooper is an activist who seeks to shape public policy in the U.S., and globally, having testified before various committees. He is passionate about the revolution in health care and commerce that wireless technology will engender when networks are finally opened and new technology adopted. Join Mr. Cooper and Cinequest at our Opening Night ceremony, Tuesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. in the California Theatre

MATTHEW MODINE – Cinequest proudly honors actor, filmmaker and technologist Matthew Modine (*The Dark Knight Rises*, *Jobs*) with the Maverick Innovator Award and presents this intimate look at his new “appumentary,” Full Metal Jacket Diary. Based on his award-winning limited-edition book, Modine’s diary chronicles the making of Stanley Kubrick’s Vietnam War masterpiece *Full Metal Jacket* — becoming an entirely reimagined, interactive audiovisual experience, and a stunning journey into new storytelling territory. Through this lively presentation and conversation with Matthew Modine, fans will revel in a celebration of one of cinema’s greatest directors. Like Kubrick, Modine has embraced new technologies to craft an awe-inspiring new way of looking at the movie experience in a fresh and adventurous way. “When I first set out to make my book, the goal was to create something that Stanley would have been proud of and wanted to own. The goal with this app has been no different,” said Modine. “If Stanley were alive today, I think he would love the iPad. He was always interested in

the latest technologies and in many ways, he was ahead of his time... This app will give a new audience and a new generation access to my diary and photographs in ways I never imagined possible." Participate in the conversation on Saturday, March 15 at 3:30 p.m. in the Camera 12 Cinemas.

### **About Cinequest**

Cinequest is a vanguard organization that fuses creativity with technological innovation to empower, improve, and transform the lives of people and communities worldwide, through Picture the Possibilities, Cinequest Film Festival and Cinequest Mavericks Studio.

- Cinequest Film Festival showcases premier films, renowned and emerging artists, and breakthrough technology—empowering global connectivity between creators, innovators and audiences.
- Cinequest Mavericks Studio creates innovative and transformative motion pictures, television and distribution paradigms.
- Cinequest Picture The Possibilities: a transformative leadership movement, where empowered youth create films expressing visions of a better tomorrow—inspiring us to improve worlds.

CQFF Partners: Applied Materials (NYSE: AMAT), City of San Jose, Barco, Kaiser Permanente, Knight Foundation, Harmonic (NYSE: HLIT), Synaptics (NYSE: SYNA), Comcast-Xfinity (NYSE: CMCSK), NBC Bay Area, KGO 810, KFOG 97.7, Cisco (NYSE: CSCO), Dolby (NYSE: DLB), Stella Artois (NYSE: BUD), Tito's Handmade Vodka, iON, Adobe (NYSE: ADBE), eBay Foundation (NYSE: EBAY), Macy's (NYSE: M), Seagate (NYSE: STX), United Airlines (NYSE: UAL), PepsiCo, Inc. (NYSE: PEP), VTA, Liquid Agency and Agile.

**CQFF24 occurs March 4 - 16, 2014**

[www.cinequest.org](http://www.cinequest.org)

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