

Award Recipients

Wes Studi

The internationally acclaimed actor Wes Studi will receive the VVA Excellence in the Arts Award at the Saturday night Awards Banquet. Studi's acting credits include prominent roles in "Dances with Wolves," "The Last of the Mohicans," and "Geronimo: An American Legend." In those and other parts Studi broke new ground, bringing fully developed Native American characters to the screen, and highlighting the success of Native Americans in non-traditional roles.

Studi, who was born in Oklahoma and spoke only Cherokee until he was five years old, joined the U.S. Army and volunteered to serve in Vietnam. He did a one-year Vietnam War tour with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta. After his honorable discharge, Studi was active in the American Indian Movement. He began his acting career in 1984 after studying at the American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa.

In addition to acting, Wes Studi is a stone carver and musician and has written two children's books. His In 2013, he was inducted in to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Western Performers.

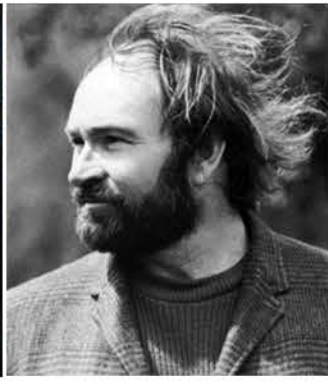
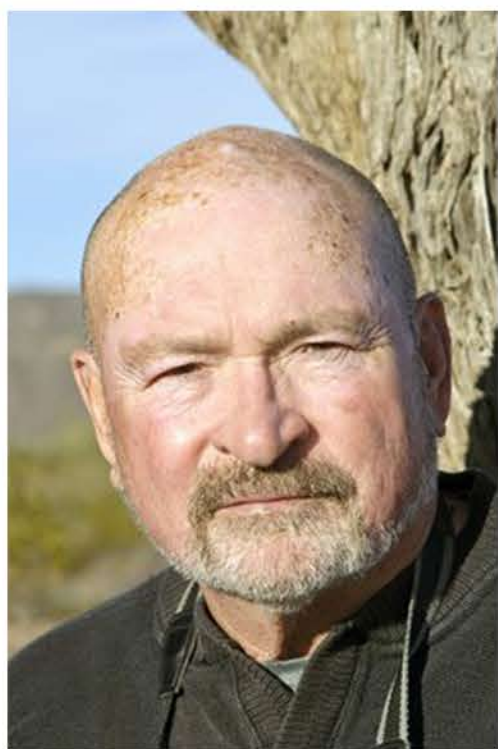


Doug Peacock

The author and environmentalist Doug Peacock, who served two tours as an Army Special Forces medic in the Vietnam War, will receive the VVA Excellence in the Arts Award at the Saturday night Awards Banquet.

Best known for his best-selling memoir, Grizzly Years: In Search of the American Wilderness, Peacock's other books include his war memoir, Walking It Off: A Veterans Chronicle of War and Wilderness. A former Guggenheim fellow, Peacock was the subject of a feature film, Peacock's War, about grizzly bears and the Vietnam War. He has appeared on many TV shows, including the Today Show, Good Morning America, and NBC Evening News.

A close friend of the writer Edward Abbey, a leading voice in the Western environmental movement, Peacock—who calls himself a "renegade naturalist and grizzly bear biologist"—lectures regularly about the wilderness and veterans issues. He is chair of the Board of Directors of Round River, which works with indigenous peoples in Africa and North and South America on environmental and conservation issues.

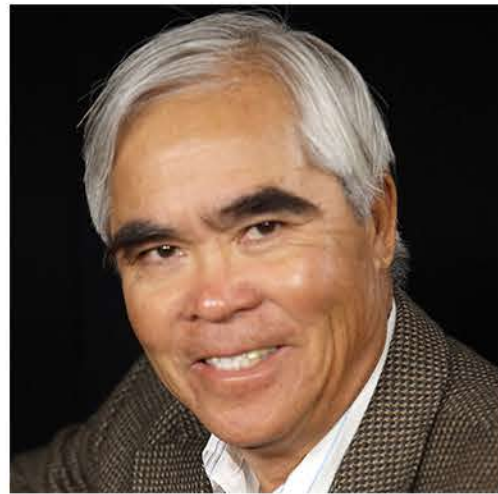


Nick Ut

Nick Ut, the long-time Associated Press photographer who won two Pulitzer Prizes for photography in 1973, will receive the President's Award for Excellence in the Arts at the Saturday night Awards Banquet.

Born Huỳnh Công Út in Vietnam in 1951, he is best known for taking one of the most iconic photographs of the Vietnam War—or any other war: "The Terror of War," also known as "The Girl in the Photograph," a shot taken on June 8, 1972, that features a naked nine-year-old girl, Kim Phuc, fleeing a South Vietnamese napalm attack.

He began working as an AP photographer in 1967, and was wounded three times while doing his job during the Vietnam War. Ut worked all over the world for AP after the war, became a U.S. citizen, and retired in March. He and Kim Phuc remain friends to this day.



Paula Cinko



Rosetta (Cox) Gitlin

