

STUDIO MOVIE GRILL

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Studio Movie Grill Announces Big Thought's Lisa Schmidt will be its 2018 Opening Hearts & Minds Award honoree



Dallas, TX (April 4, 2018) – As a part of its ongoing effort to leave a positive wake and live its mission, Studio Movie Grill (“SMG”) made a surprise announcement this past week that Big Thought’s Lisa Schmidt would be the recipient of their 2018 Opening Hearts & Minds Award on June 14. The news was revealed following one of Big Thought’s special screenings of *A WRINKLE IN TIME* facilitated by Schmidt for underserved schools, hosted and sponsored by Studio Movie Grill.

The award presentation will be held on June 14th at SMG NorthWest Highway prior to a special screening of a highly anticipated film at SMG, complete with red carpet entrances and celebrity appearances in support of the event celebrating Schmidt’s 30 years as an impactful educator and her tireless work with Big Thought to further social-emotional learning with children and adults.

“The SMG team is honored to celebrate Lisa Schmidt and her inspirational work with Big Thought. Our mission is to open hearts and minds, one story at a time and we experienced first-hand the impact that was made when we hosted over 13,000 students for special screenings of *Wonder*, many of which were facilitated by Lisa and the Big Thought team. Movies can be impactful and serve to connect us all and Lisa Schmidt’s work underlines the power of film to educate and enlighten. We look forward to continuing to work together and to a tremendous event in June to celebrate this incredible local hero’s life’s work,” shared Studio Movie Grill Founder/CEO Brian Schultz.

Educator Lisa Schmidt founded and is project director of Creative Solutions, a Big Thought partnership with the Dallas County Juvenile Department and Southern Methodist University, that provides job and life skills training for teens and disadvantaged adults. Studio Movie Grill has worked with Schmidt and Big Thought, hosting and sponsoring multiple impactful screenings to support those programs (with films like *WONDER WOMAN*, *WONDER*, and *A WRINKLE IN TIME*). This is one of many programs that SMG undertakes to support the communities in which it finds itself – and one which the theater chain has ambitions to introduce to all its communities to benefit its constituents across the country.

2018 will mark the third Opening Hearts & Minds Award presentation at Studio Movie Grill. Last year, timed to the release of *WONDER WOMAN*, SMG chose a real life woman superhero nominated by its local communities in each of its markets including Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/FortWorth, Houston, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Rocklin/Sacramento, Scottsdale/Phoenix, Simi Valley/Los Angeles and Tampa. Those 12 women were then flown to Dallas, given a red-carpet welcome and presented with donations to their organizations and causes, as well as an Opening Hearts and Minds Award 2017.

SMG attracts more than 11 million patrons annually and hosts thousands of corporate and special events. A leader among businesses in the arena of conscious business initiatives, and with a company-wide mission to open hearts and minds, one story at a time, SMG works tirelessly with the communities surrounding their theaters to better the lives of their guests. This includes a number of varied charitable initiatives, its 15-year-old legacy special needs screening program, Chefs for Children, funding charitable projects, community building and outreach initiatives, and supporting additional fundraising events and film festivals.

About Studio Movie Grill

Established in 2000, Studio Movie Grill (“SMG”) modernized the traditional movie-going experience by combining first-run movies with full-service, in-theater dining. SMG has swiftly grown to 30 locations in 9 states with further expansion planned. SMG was named to Inc. Magazine’s List of “Fastest Growing Private Companies” two years in a row, placed 12th in Box Office Magazine’s Giants of the Industry in 2018 with key films grossing as high as #5 in North America. Honoring its commitment to Opening Hearts and Minds, One Story at a Time™, SMG’s legacy programs include Special Needs Screenings, Chefs for Children program and annual Award, which strive to help families and acknowledge local heroes. For additional information, visit studiomoviegrill.com.

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