The 22nd Annual HSUS Genesis Awards Honor the Best in Activism and the Media

The 2007 Wyler Award, conferred on a celebrity or public figure for their commitment to animal advocacy and ability to raise public awareness, was presented to 18-year-old actress Hayden Panettiere at the annual HSUS Genesis Awards, which recognize those in major media whose work exposes animal abuse and celebrates their humane treatment. Sir Paul McCartney won the inaugural award established in honor of Gretchen Wyler, the Broadway and Hollywood actress, animal advocate, and former HSUS vice president who founded the Genesis Awards 22 years ago and died last year.

Panettiere was cited for “using her courage, compassion, and celebrity to draw worldwide attention to Japan’s cruel dolphin slaughter.” Presenters included comedian and political satirist Bill Maher; Hollywood veteran James Cromwell; and Ben Stein, writer, actor, and game show host. Year of the Dog was named top feature film; the Sid Caesar Comedy Award went to ABC’s show According to Jim; and best documentary was judged to be Sharkwater. A Special Recognition Award was given to famed restaurateur and humane advocate Wolfgang Puck.

Winners and Honorees

Feature Film
Year of the Dog — Paramount Vantage
Compassionate portrait of an animal activist.

Documentary Film
Sharkwater — Atlantis/Alliance
Shark finning threatens the oceans’ top predator.

Sid Caesar Comedy Award
According to Jim “Guinea Pygmalion” — ABC
Domineering dad’s love for a very small family pet.

Dramatic TV Series
CSI: Crime Scene Investigation “Lying Down with Dogs” — CBS
Brutality and sadism in the dogfighting underground.

TV Newsmagazine — National
60 Minutes multiple episodes — CBS
Endangered elephants and mountain gorillas.

TV Newsmagazine – Cable/Local/PBS/Syndicated
Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel “Bred to Die” and “Faster Horses” — HBO
Dogfighting and illegal doping of racehorses.

National TV News Feature
CBS Evening News with Katie Couric multiple segments — CBS
Reports on a tiger sanctuary, horse racing, dogfighting.

Local TV News Series
WAGA-TV FOX 5 (Atlanta) “Fox Pens: Fair Hunt?”
Dogs kill captive foxes in a perverse new blood sport.

WKYC-TV (Cleveland) “Pig Farm Abuse”
Appalling cruelty on a factory farm.

Local TV News Feature
KHOU-TV (Houston) multiple segments
Horse slaughter, elephant abuse, fur fraud, dogfighting.

National TV Morning Show
Sunday Morning multiple segments — CBS
War zone animals, training shelter dogs, retired elephants.
TV Documentary

**Planet in Peril** — CNN
Exotic animal trade in Thailand’s street markets.

**Brigitte Bardot International Video**

*The Cairo Connection* — various countries
Global trafficking in bush meat.

**Brigitte Bardot International Print**

*The Japan Times*
Cruelty and health risks of eating dolphin meat.

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**Periodical Article**

**Gourmet**

“The Occasional Vegetarian”
Cruelties endured by chickens raised for human food.

**Newspaper Magazine Article**

*Chicago Tribune*

“Is Animal Liberation Going Soft?”
New perspectives on the animal rights movement.

**Series of Newspaper Articles**

*Tulsa World*
Probe of Oklahoma’s huge puppy mill industry.

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**Columnist**

Stu Bykofsky — *Philadelphia Daily News*
Captive elephants, foie gras, Thanksgiving turkeys.

**The Wyler Award**

Hayden Panettiere
Protesting Japan’s dolphin slaughter.

**Special Recognition**

Wolfgang Puck
World-class chef embraces humane food sourcing.