

## Mayor Bloomberg and Meryl Streep to share spotlight at Mayor's Awards for Arts & Culture

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By Patrick Hugenin



Mayor Bloomberg and actress Meryl Streep will host the Mayor's Awards for Arts & Culture.

Beck/Getty, Barcelo for News

His biggest movie credit has been playing himself in "A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa," but Mayor Bloomberg is set to share top billing with double Oscar-winner Meryl Streep.

Hizzoner will team up next Monday with the legendary actress to co-host the Mayor's Awards for Arts & Culture at Alice Tully Hall.

Bloomberg said he's "excited" but also a little intimidated by the "Devil Wears Prada" star.

"She is one of the greatest actresses of our time, so I've got a lot of rehearsing to do before next Monday," said Bloomberg, who usually jokes about his own policies at the annual fete.

The three-term mayor said he can only try to hold his own against the megastar - nominated for a record 16 Academy Awards and 25 Golden Globes.

But the mayor and Meryl show isn't the focus of the evening.

"The awards give us a chance to recognize the achievements of some of the people who make extraordinary contributions to culture in the five boroughs and help keep the city a vibrant place for artists and audiences," Bloomberg said.

New York City's highest award for achievement in the arts, the Handel Medallion, will go to dance great and outgoing Alvin Ailey Artistic Director Judith Jamison.

Other honorees will include photographer Bill Cunningham, Bronx Theatre High School Principal Deborah Effinger and Amy Fischetti-Boncardo, executive director of the Queens County Farm Museum.

The Brooklyn Community Foundation and Staten Island's Sandy Ground Historical Society are also slated to be honored.