



Women in Film and Television – Toronto announces Jennifer Liao as winner of CBC Business of Broadcasting Mentorship Award

(TORONTO – Monday, November 19, 2007) Women in Film and Television - Toronto (WIFT-T), in partnership with CBC Television, is pleased to announce Jennifer Liao as the winner of the 2007 **CBC Business of Broadcasting Mentorship Award**. Liao will receive her award at the 2007 Crystal Awards Gala Luncheon on Monday, December 3, 2007 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

“On behalf of CBC/Radio-Canada, I'd like to congratulate Jennifer,” said Kirstine Layfield, Executive Director of Network Programming for CBC Television. “We look forward to working with her to help explore and develop the wide-ranging set of skills – from creative development to business, technical and overall project management – which are absolutely essential in today's world of television production.”

Liao recently wrote and directed her first short film, *Pride War*. Also an actor, she made her television debut earlier this year in the ABC Family movie *Nature of the Beast*. She is currently the Toronto Manager of the Carter Thor Studios East acting studio and an active member of the LIFT Screenwriters Circle. Liao was born and raised in Calgary and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McGill University before settling in Toronto. Her current projects in development include a short film adaptation of the short story *What You Eat* and the television series *This Is Home*.

The **CBC Business of Broadcasting Mentorship Award** gives one emerging Canadian female filmmaker the invaluable opportunity to take a comprehensive week-long workshop at a designated CBC location. The winner is given the opportunity to establish business and mentoring relationships with CBC Drama staff, and is guided through various production and broadcast components of short film. Topics and areas of exploration include: project management, financing film and television production, marketing and distribution, and emerging technologies and the impact of technology on content. The mentorship begins in January 2008.

Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T) is a leading internationally affiliated professional organization that recognizes, trains and advances women in screen-based media. WIFT-T offers a year-round slate of skills development, networking events and industry awards, providing the tools to succeed in Canada's global entertainment industry. WIFT-T serves more than 3,000 women and men in Canadian screen-based media, connecting them to close to 10,000 leading film, television, and new media professionals worldwide.

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. CBC/Radio-Canada reaches Canadians through eight national radio and television networks, its full-service Web sites, local/regional stations and affiliates, as well as the digital television channel Country Canada and the continuous music network Galaxie. In addition, CBC/Radio-Canada has forged partnerships with other broadcasters and is a partner in the satellite radio service SIRIUS Canada as well as in the specialty television services ARTV and The Documentary Channel. Through this array of activities, CBC/Radio-Canada brings diverse regional and cultural perspectives into the daily lives of Canadians in English, French and eight aboriginal languages.

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