



Crystal Awards 2006 Call for Nominations

(TORONTO – Friday, July 14, 2006) Women in Film and Television-Toronto (WIFT-T) is pleased to announce the **2006 Crystal Awards Call for Nominations**. The deadline for nominations is Friday, September 8, 2006, by 5pm EST.

For almost 20 years, WIFT-T has recognized the extraordinary achievements of women in film, television and new media with its annual Crystal Awards. Since its inception in 1988, these coveted awards have been presented to more than 80 of Canada's most accomplished women and men who have made significant contributions to the advancement of women and who have helped bring issues of diversity to the forefront.

WIFT-T is currently accepting nominations for this year's Crystal Awards. The award winners will be honoured at the Crystal Awards Gala Luncheon on December 4, 2006. We invite you to nominate an exceptional contributor to Canada's film, television or new media in each of the following 2006 Crystal Award categories:

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded to a woman who has made a major contribution to screen-based media through the consistent quality of her work throughout her career. Through personal example and leadership, she has inspired and set standards for women and men working in the screen-based media industries.

AWARD FOR CREATIVE EXCELLENCE

Awarded to a woman in recognition of the creative excellence and dynamic quality of her work in the screen-based media industries. The recipient's recent work has gained national and/or international attention in the previous year and has established a standard for those working in screen-based media.

PHYLLIS SWITZER MENTORSHIP AWARD

Presented in association with CHUM Limited

The Phyllis Switzer Mentorship Award is named in memory of one of Canada's leading media pioneers and one of the first recipients of the prestigious Crystal Award for Outstanding Achievement. Ms. Switzer's commitment to advancing female talent in film and television remains an inspiration to people across the country.

Awarded to a woman or man in the industry who has made an outstanding contribution toward building, advancing and sustaining women's careers in screen-based media. The recipient is recognized for her/his significant contribution—through valuable activities such as mentoring emerging female talent, supporting the advancement of women throughout the industry, or assisting female entrepreneurs in initiating and

growing their own companies.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER AWARD

This new award is presented to an employer in film, television or new media who has advanced the careers of women at all levels. The employer encourages and supports women in the work environment through their human resources and other management policies and practices, mentorship, guidance, and training initiatives. In order to qualify for this award, the employer must provide statistical data on the employment of women at all levels in the organization. (e.g. per cent of female employees, per cent of female executives and board members, per cent of female visible minorities, and list of training opportunities, etc.). Nominees must include supporting materials of written policies or established practices which facilitate the full participation and career advancement of women.

Award Process

A Call for Nominations is made to the screen-based media industries. Industry and WIFT-T members are invited to nominate candidates by completing the 2006 Crystal Award Nomination Form (see details below) and required materials and submitting them to WIFT-T. Please note that WIFT-T Board members may not be nominated.

Jury Members

An independent jury of past award recipients and industry leaders will select the Crystal Award winners for 2006. This year's jury includes:

- *Silva Basmajian* is a producer, writer and researcher who has worked on more than 50 productions.
- *Kathryn Emslie* is Director, Film & Television Programmes, for the Canadian Film Centre.
- *Trina McQueen* is President of Hutton-Belleville Inc., and a celebrated broadcaster and journalist.
- *Alex Raffe* is President of Savi Media, a production company that develops and produces feature films and television for Canadian and international audiences.
- *Andra Sheffer* is the Executive Director of the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund; the Independent Production Fund; and the COGECO Program Development Fund.
- *Nancy Smith* is CEO of NextMedia, a business consulting company.
- *Maria Topalovich* is President and CEO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television.

To download the 2006 Crystal Award nomination form, or for more information on the jury members, please go to the WIFT-T website at www.wift.com.

Deadline for nominations: Friday, September 8, 2006, by 5pm EST.

For more information, please contact:

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