



WOMEN IN FILM AND TELEVISION - TORONTO

announcement

**WIFT-T announces *Degrassi* creator Linda Schuyler
to receive CTV International Achievement Award
at 2006 Crystal Awards**

(TORONTO – Tuesday, November 21, 2006) Women in Film and Television - Toronto (WIFT-T) is pleased to announced that Linda Schuyler, co-creator and executive producer of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* and co-producer of the original *Degrassi* series, will be presented with the **CTV International Achievement Award** at the 2006 Crystal Awards Gala Luncheon on Monday, December 4, 2006 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Sponsored by CTV, this prestigious Crystal Award will be presented to Schuyler by Ivan Fecan, President and CEO of Bell Globemedia.

“We are delighted to welcome Linda Schuyler to the 2006 Crystal Awards and honour her with the International Crystal Award,” said Sue, Sheridan, WIFT-T Executive Director. “Her mark on the Canadian production landscape is irrefutable, and she is a true inspiration to the Canadian production community.”

“As a leader in the international success of the *Degrassi* franchise, Linda Schuyler is an obvious candidate for this year’s CTV International Achievement Award,” said Susanne Boyce, CTV President of Programming and Chair of the CTV Media Group. “For over 25 years, the *Degrassi* franchise she co-created has been connecting with audiences in Canada and around the world.”

Schuyler’s most recent success is the latest incarnation of the *Degrassi* series, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. Canada’s No. 1 homegrown drama*, the CTV series is not only a success at home, but continues to draw critical and ratings success in over 150 countries. In the U.S, *Degrassi: TNG* is the flagship series for cable network The N.

A proven leader in Canadian television production, Schuyler and her team have propelled *Degrassi: The Next Generation* into a multi-platform brand that includes the recently launched *Degrassi: Extra Credit*, a multiple-volume series of graphic novels. As well, Schuyler has co-produced additional online content complimenting the conventional television broadcast of *Degrassi: TNG*, including webisodes, behind-the-scenes documentaries and animated shorts.

CEO of Epitome Pictures, Linda Schuyler is best known for co-creating and executive producing the multi-award winning *Degrassi* series including *The Kids of Degrassi Street*, *Degrassi Junior High*, *Degrassi High*, *Degrassi Talks* and Canada's No. 1 homegrown drama*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, now in its sixth season on CTV. Since launching over 25 years ago, the franchise has won two International Emmys, 14 Gemini Awards, two Prix Jeunesses and numerous other festival honours.

With over 25 years of experience producing award-winning programming, Schuyler's additional television credits include the half-hour music drama *Instant Star*, which is seen in over 110 countries and is currently shooting its third season for CTV. Past television projects included the MOW *X-Rated* and the dramatic series *Liberty Street* and *Riverdale*. In recognition of her contribution to Canadian television programming, Schuyler was awarded the Order of Canada in 1994.

The WIFT-T 2006 Crystal Award winners, selected by a jury of Crystal Award alumni, are:

Outstanding Achievement Award, presented in association with CanWest MediaWorks

Christina Jennings, Chair and Co-CEO of Shaftesbury Films Inc.

Presented by Kathleen Dore, President, Television & Radio, CanWest MediaWorks Inc.

Creative Excellence Award, presented in association with NBC Universal

Jennifer Baichwal, Director, Producer

Presented by Ron Suter, Senior Vice President, NBC Universal Canada

Phyllis Switzer Mentorship Award, presented in association with CHUM Limited

KAREN GELBART, Senior Vice President, Content, Lifestyle Channels, Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc.

Presented by Sarah Crawford, Vice President, Public Affairs, CHUM Television

Crystal Jury Award

Jeanne Beker, Host and Segment Producer, FT-Fashion Television and Fashion Television Channel
Presented by Marcia Martin, Vice President, Production, CHUM Television

The 2006 Crystal Awards will also include presentations of the WIFT-T mentorship awards: the Kodak New Vision Fellowship, the CBC Canadian Reflections Award, the Alliance Atlantis Diversity in Broadcasting Internship, and the Quebecor BANFF Mentorship Award.

Crystal Awards 2006 Presenting Partners: CHUM Limited and NBC UNIVERSAL

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.

* Nielsen Media Research, Viewers 2+, Sept. 19/05 - May 7/06.

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