

THE NEW YORK TELEVISION FESTIVAL AND THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FESTIVAL ANNOUNCE TV FESTIVAL PASSPORT PROGRAM

***Up-and-coming TV creators, including the inaugural class of NYTVF Fellows,
will participate in an international artist exchange program
between the two TV festivals***

[NEW YORK, NY, Sept. 17, 2007] – The New York Television Festival (NYTVF) joined with the MediaGuardian Edinburgh International Television Festival (MGEITF) today to announce the TV Festival PassPort Exchange Program. This unique exchange program will establish an international partnership uniting the most promising TV creators affiliated with the two festivals. In 2008, the MGEITF will present screenings featuring the pilots made by the four recipients of the NYTVF Fellowships announced below. Additionally, MGEITF will welcome all pilot-makers featured at the 2007 NYTVF at its festival in Edinburgh. In return, the NYTVF will welcome participants in the MGEITF's Fast Track program to participate in the festivities in New York City.

“The rich tradition of the Edinburgh International Television Festival has earned it a reputation as one of the great artistic festivals globally, and the NYTVF is proud to be associated with it,” said NYTVF founder Terence Gray. “The TV Festival PassPort Program elevates the stage for our pilot-makers to an international level, giving them stature on par with some of the best aspiring talent in the UK.”

“We are delighted to be forming this partnership with the NYTVF, which has already done so much to promote new talent and new voices in television. I am confident that this collaboration will lead to other joint projects between the two festivals,” said MGEITF Festival Director Amy Brown.

As part of the TV Festival PassPort Program, the four pilot-makers named to the NYTVF Fellowship program will receive the opportunity to screen their pilots in a special series at the Festival in Edinburgh next year. Launched in 2007, the NYTVF Fellowship Program pairs talented pilot-makers from the NYTVF Independent Pilot Competition in mentorships with established TV producers. Industry veterans Michael Davies, Tom Fontana, Mitchell Hurwitz, and Phil Rosenthal are participating in the first year of the program, and their selections for the inaugural NYTVF Fellowships are:

- Michael Davies: Naren Young – Producer, writer, and co-star of the educational pilot, “The Happy Hour”
- Tom Fontana: Kevin Napier – Executive producer, director, and writer of the comedy pilot “Ex-Pats: Bangalore”
- Mitchell Hurwitz: Anne Jarmain – Executive producer and writer of the drama pilot, “Dear Harvard”
- Phil Rosenthal: Barry Gribble – Executive producer, director, and writer of the comedy pilot “Codeword Secret”

As part of the exchange, artists participating in the MGEITF Fast Track Program will receive free artist passes to attend the 2008 NYTVF. MGEITF Fast Track is a unique experience for the very best new talent in the UK television industry. Each year 40 people are selected to attend this prestigious series of informal masterclasses on broadcasting, production and career direction with the very best in current industry expertise. It also gives free access to the MediaGuardian Edinburgh International Television Festival.

The TV Festival PassPort Program will not only increase the ability of both festivals to promote the work of its producers abroad, but it will also establish the core of an international community of TV creators. In time, the NYTVF and the MGEITF aim to expand the opportunities for members of this community, offering them the ability to collaborate with an international group of talented writers, directors, and producers. The partnership opens up the unprecedented possibility for screenings, seminars, and competitions to be co-presented by the two festivals on an international scale.

The NYTVF debuted in 2005 as the industry's first showcase for independent television. Recent pilots that premiered at the Festival and have been sold to major networks include the scripted comedy "Split the Difference" to NBC Universal Television Studios and the improv comedy pilot "Criss-Cross" to A&E Television Networks. Additionally, the reality series "Off the Hook" was purchased and developed as a series by Versus. The third annual NYTVF ran from September 5th through September 9th.

The NYTVF is supported by Signature Sponsors MSN, Xbox and Procter & Gamble Productions. TV Guide and the William Morris Agency are Official Supporting Sponsors. Official Network Sponsors for the 2007 NYTVF include NBC Universal, FOX, ABC, A&E, Bravo and E!. The NYTVF works in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of New York City.

For more information on the NYTVF, please visit www.newyorktelevisionfestival.com.

Contact: Press inquiries may be sent to Eben Russell at: eben@nytvf.com

About the New York Television Festival

The NYTVF was founded in 2005 as the industry's first recognized independent television festival, providing a platform to elevate the work of artists creating for the small screen. Held annually each fall in New York City, the birthplace of modern television, the Festival unites artists, executives, industry figures, and fans together in one forum to celebrate the medium and to help shape its future. Along with the Independent Pilot Competition, the Festival features panel discussions, network premiere screenings, and other special events designed to honor television as an institution and as an art form.

About the MediaGuardian Edinburgh International Television Festival

Now in its 33rd year, the Edinburgh International Television Festival is the UK's essential annual event for everyone working in television. Shaping the future of our industry by debating the key issues of the day, the Festival attracts around 2000 delegates from all sectors and levels of the industry. Engaging, vibrant and fun, MGEITF is a sociable experience that celebrates success and is committed to the development of new talent. The Edinburgh International

Television Festival offers delegates a varied programme of sessions, screenings, masterclasses, interviews, keynote lectures and networking opportunities from leading UK and international media figures. For ongoing news updates go to www.mgeitf.co.uk. The Festival takes place from 22 - 24 August 2008.