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Contact: **Rubenstein Communications, Inc.**  
Gretchen Wagner, 212-843-8076, [gwagner@rubenstein.com](mailto:gwagner@rubenstein.com)  
Jodi Sevin, 212-843-8393, [jsevin@rubenstein.com](mailto:jsevin@rubenstein.com)

**2008 NEW YORK TELEVISION FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES AWARDS**

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**“BELOW THE LAW”, “HIT FACTOR,” “THE KITTY LANDERS SHOW” AND  
“THE ROAD” WIN TOP AWARDS IN INDEPENDENT PILOT COMPETITION**

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**“TEACHERS” WINS FIRST NYTVF PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD; MIKE MALONEY  
RECEIVES \$25,000 AND A SCRIPT DEAL FOR WINNING THE FOX-NYTVF COMEDY  
SCRIPT CONTEST; PROCTER & GAMBLE PRODUCTIONS PREMIERES THE WINNERS  
OF THE FLYING SOLO CONTEST**

*[NEW YORK, NY, Sept. 17, 2008]* –The fourth annual New York Television Festival (NYTVF) announced Festival honors tonight at New World Stages in Midtown Manhattan, featuring the winners of the Festival’s Independent Pilot Competition. In addition, representatives from key Festival partners announced the winners of the first NYTVF People’s Choice Award, the FOX-NYTVF Comedy Script Contest, and the Procter & Gamble Productions (PGP) Flying Solo Contest. The NYTVF was founded in 2005 as the industry’s first recognized independent television festival and unites artists, executives, industry figures, and fans together in one forum to celebrate the medium and to help shape its future. The fourth annual NYTVF launched on September 12<sup>th</sup> and ran through September 17<sup>th</sup>. Winning pilots will be available for free online viewing starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. Check [www.nytvf.com](http://www.nytvf.com) for details.

“We congratulate all the artists whose work was featured at the 2008 New York Television Festival and send our gratitude to our partners, sponsors and all the attendees who help support the independent television movement,” said NYTVF founder Terence Gray. “The New York Television Festival enjoyed unprecedented success in 2008, in terms of submissions, attendance and industry recognition, and it will continue to help elevate producers creating content for TV and digital platforms.”

**As announced at the NYTVF Awards Ceremony, following are the awards and their winners:**

**NYTVF Special Competition Winners**

Voted by popular choice at Festival screenings, the 2008 NYTVF **People’s Choice Award** for Best Pilot was presented to New York City-based pilot-maker Jim Garvey for **“Teachers.”** Featuring American Idol finalist Constantine Maroulis, Broadway stars Katherine Holland (*Wicked*) and Sarah Litzinger (*Beauty and the Beast*), and The Food Network’s Noah Starr, “Teachers” is a sitcom detailing the experiences of a fresh-faced teacher getting an education of his own from jaded colleagues and eccentric supervisors at a suburban public school. For the first time in the 35 year history of the People's Choice Awards, one of the prestigious crystal statue awards was handed out in a

venue other than the annual January awards show. "Participation in the New York Television Festival epitomizes the goal of People's Choice," says President of People's Choice, Fred Nelson, "which is to allow entertainment enthusiasts to share their voice whenever juries of experts gather to honor the best in the industry." Nelson presented the NYTVF People's Choice Award during the NYTVF Awards Ceremony.

Replacing the Audience Award at this year's NYTVF, the signature award honored the favorite submission in the Independent Pilot Competition.

The comedy pilot "**Selling Hell**" was named the winner of the **FOX-NYTVF Comedy Script Contest**. As part of this distinction, Mike Maloney will receive \$25,000 and a development deal with Fox Broadcasting Company. The script follows a divorced couple whose relationship is further strained when they are forced to become employees in Hell's marketing department.

The ceremony also featured the world premiere of two pilots created as part of the **Procter & Gamble Productions Flying Solo TV Pilot Contest**. The two winners of the contest, Blaire Byhower and Hannah Friedman, starred in and helped produce separate reality pilots about their lives during the summer after their college graduation. The two pilots debuted at the NYTVF and will be getting digital distribution on Lifetime's Web site at [www.mylifetime.com](http://www.mylifetime.com).

#### **NYTVF Independent Pilot Competition Winners**

The 2008 Independent Pilot Competition featured 36 pilots in a wide variety of television genres. This year's "NYTVF Awards" were presented to pilots and pilot-makers in the following categories:

##### **Best Comedy Pilot: "Below the Law"**

Created by: Dan Levy and Steve Basilone (Los Angeles, CA)

Two brothers turn to vigilante justice when they are informed that they have to wait a year for their acceptance to the police academy to take effect.

##### **Best Drama Pilot: "Hit Factor"**

Created by: Jamie Rosenblatt and Neil Hopkins (Los Angeles, CA)

Three struggling actors moonlight as industry hit men in the hopes of boosting their stagnant careers.

##### **Best Family Pilot: "The Kitty Landers Show"**

Created by: Chris Potocki, Regina Taufen, and Anna Christopher (Venice Beach, CA)

Kitty and her eclectic band of friends teach each other lessons about life and have lots of fun doing it.

##### **Best Nonscripted Pilot: "The Road"**

Created by: Frank Mosca and Mike DeStefano (Bronx, NY)

Stand-up comedian Mike DeStefano travels the road to recovery from his personal demons and shares his insight and wit with others who have had similar experiences.

##### **Best Animation Pilot: "Tickle Me Silly"**

Created by: Miguel Martinez-Joffre (Jersey City, NJ)

The young raccoon sheriff, Raul Rattatan, and his lovable sidekick, Deputy Pancho the Warthog, quest to stop the notorious El Pinto and his tickling crime spree.

##### **Best Web Series Pilot: "The Prisoner"**

Created by: Karin Williams (New York City, NY)

A dramatic microseries, designed for the web and mobile devices, exploring the limits of personal freedom in the context of a global war on terror.

**Best Actor: Nick Offerman for “The Department”** (Joliet, IL)

The Psychology Department at the University of Chicago is turned upside down after a series of violent patient outbursts causes the dean to bring in a violence expert.

**Best Actress: Regina Taufen for “The Kitty Landers Show”** (Wilmington, DE)

Kitty and her eclectic band of friends teach each other lessons about life and have lots of fun doing it.

**Best Nonscripted Host or Star: Bill Rampley for “Bill Rampley’s Southern Comfort”**

(Atlanta, GA)

Host Bill Rampley takes to the road and uncovers a real south that isn’t lacking in history or southern hospitality.

**Best Writing: Timothy Nash, Hayden Grubb and Lucas Crandles for “Wentworth and Buxbury”** (Melbourne, Victoria-Australia)

Wentworth and Buxbury are two young, charismatic, but nonetheless unfathomably evil supervillains-in-training with a healthy mutual disdain for one another.

**Best Directing: Jon Pivko for “The Triboro”** (Haskell, NJ)

The lives of two suburban teens are changed forever during a routine cup run in the middle of a huge house party.

**Outside the Box Award: “Food Party”**

**Created by: Thu Tran** (Brooklyn, NY)

The Outside the Box Award is a new award given to the most innovative or genre-expanding pilot in competition. “Food Party” is a cooking show featuring a spicy Saigon kitchen-witch as the hostess, a cast of unruly puppets as culinary advisors, and a cavalcade of surprise dinner guests.

Full descriptions of all pilots are available online at [nytvf.com](http://nytvf.com).

The NYTVF is supported by sponsors including Procter & Gamble Productions, MySpace TV, People’s Choice, MSN, and the William Morris Agency. Official Network Sponsors for the 2008 NYTVF include NBC Universal, FOX, ABC, CBS, Media Rights Capital, A&E, History, Bravo, Lifetime, MTV Networks, Rainbow Networks (WEtv, IFC, AMC, Sundance), truTV 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](http://www.newyorktelevisionfestival.com).

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**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.

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