



**NYTVF, LIONSGATE/SEA TO SKY AND UK-BASED CHANNEL 4 TEAM
UP TO OFFER DRAMA DEVELOPMENT AWARD TO INDIE TV
CREATORS**

Dates for 2014 New York Television Festival revealed, with 10th annual festival to take place October 20 – 25

[New York, NY, February 18, 2014] NYTVF (www.nytvf.com) today announced that, for the first time, it is bringing an international co-development opportunity to independent TV creators. In partnership with Channel 4, Lionsgate and Sea to Sky, its joint venture with Frank Giustra's Thunderbird Films, the NYTVF is launching the **“Lionsgate/Sea To Sky Entertainment – Channel 4 Drama Co-Development Award,”** guaranteeing that an outstanding drama project will receive a \$45,000 script development award from the studio and broadcaster.

Also today, the NYTVF – an organization dedicated to identifying and nurturing top independent creative talent and fostering connections with networks, studios and brands – announced the dates for the 10th annual New York Television Festival, its flagship event, which will take place this year in Manhattan from October 20-25.

To qualify for the Lionsgate/Sea To Sky – Channel 4 Drama co-development award, independent creators must enter a drama project into the NYTVF's annual Independent Pilot Competition (IPC), which is now accepting independently produced television and digital pilots in all genres until June 27. Projects named “Official Selections” in 2014 will be eligible for consideration by Lionsgate/Sea To Sky and Channel 4 for the script development funding.

“It's a great time for TV drama, and this is a very real and tangible opportunity for an outstanding creator to get into business with two powerhouses,” said **NYTVF Founder and Executive Director Terence Gray**. “The addition of an international co-development drama award represents an exciting first for our organization, which has seen overall submissions across all genres increase as our partners offer new development opportunities to independent TV creators.”

Recognizing the high level of talent entering NYTVF's year-round competitions, the organization's partners each year guarantee development awards for independent artists. A record 31 deals were awarded in 2013, up from 26 in 2012, 15 in 2011, four in 2010 and one or two in earlier years. The majority of these are announced at the October Festival, during which meetings take place between industry executives invited artists, contacts are signed and new show concepts are pitched.

“There is nothing more exciting than discovering new creative voices, and the New York Television Festival has become a strong showcase of independent talent,” said **Kevin Beggs, Chairman, Lionsgate Television Group**. “We’re proud to be joining with Channel 4 and NYTVF to offer this opportunity to a highly deserving candidate.”

“Channel 4 is committed to nurturing the next generation of drama writers and continues to be the home of the most distinctive UK and international drama. This partnership with Lionsgate and NYTVF offers funding to writers and producers to develop a script with established backing on both sides of the Atlantic” says Piers Wenger, Head of Drama – Channel 4

Lionsgate/Sea To Sky – Channel 4 Drama Co-Development Award: Creative Guidelines

Channel 4 and Lionsgate are partnering with the NYTVF to find the next generation of great drama writing talent. They are looking for highly original, authored ideas with scale and ambition that can speak to audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. The full creative brief and additional details can be found at <http://www.nytvf.com/deals.html>

To submit to the NYTVF's Independent Pilot Competition, producers must submit a television or digital pilot, between four (4) and twenty-two (22) minutes in length by June 27, 2014. Additional submission details, deadlines, and submission forms are available at http://www.nytvf.com/2014_ipc.html.

The Lionsgate/Sea To Sky – Channel 4 Drama co-development award joins the previously-announced [HISTORY Unscripted Development Pipeline](#) on NYTVF’s slate of 2014 development partners, with many more to be announced in the months to come. Information for these and all NYTVF submission opportunities can be found at <http://www.nytvf.com/submit.html>. Producers selected as finalists in any NYTVF initiative throughout the year will be invited to participate in the 2014 Festival as Official Artists.

About Channel 4

Channel 4 is a publicly-owned, commercially-funded, not-for-profit public service broadcaster and has a remit to be innovative, experimental and distinctive. Its public ownership and not-for-profit status ensure all profit generated by its commercial activity is directly reinvested back into the delivery of its public service remit. As a publisher-broadcaster, Channel 4 is also required to commission UK content from the independent production sector and currently works with over 400 creative companies across the UK every year. In addition to the main Channel 4 service, its portfolio includes: E4, More4, Film4, 4Music, 4seven, channel4.com, video-on-demand service 4oD and standalone digital projects.

Channel 4 Drama is passionate about talent. We source and develop material and strive to push the boundaries of creative ambition. Drama on Channel 4 continues to deliver high profile and award-winning programmes, from single films to long-running series – this year’s upcoming slate includes Russell T Davies’ Cucumber, Banana and Tofu, Dennis Kelly’s Utopia and Babylon directed by Danny Boyle, More than any other UK broadcaster, Channel 4 is committed to commissioning talent and projects that have integrity, originality and present fresh perspectives.

About Lionsgate

Lionsgate is a leading global entertainment company with a strong and diversified presence in motion picture production and distribution, television programming and syndication, home entertainment, family entertainment, digital distribution, new channel platforms and international distribution and sales. Lionsgate currently has 30 television shows on 20 different networks spanning its primetime production, distribution and syndication businesses, including such critically-acclaimed hits as the multiple Emmy Award-winning *Mad Men* and *Nurse Jackie*, the FX 10/90 comedy *Anger Management*, the ABC series *Nashville*, and the critically-acclaimed Netflix series *Orange Is The New Black*.

About Sea To Sky

Sea To Sky Entertainment is a cross-border studio partnership between Lionsgate Television and Frank Giustra's Thunderbird Films focusing on premium cable and network content for the US, Canadian and International markets. Sea To Sky has a number of high profile projects in development, including a continuing series based on the Patrick Kenzie/Angie Gennaro novels by "Gone Baby Gone" author Dennis Lehane, a limited event series inspired by the 1973 kidnapping of John Paul Getty III, and a Bret Easton Ellis television series adaptation of Jason Starr's novel "The Follower." Sea To Sky also has a first look deal in place with Kevin Costner.

About the NYTVF

Established in 2005, the NYTVF constructs new and innovative paths of development and talent identification, while simultaneously complementing the traditional television development model. By partnering directly with networks, studios, production companies, digital platforms and brands, the NYTVF provides its Industry Partners with a streamlined development model, leveraging its vast creative community of over 14,000 independent producers and production companies, to create content with specific partners in mind. During the annual New York Television Festival - held each fall in New York City - the NYTVF brings together its top artists and industry decision-makers for a series of events designed to foster networking, collaboration and education. The Festival also marks the culmination of the organization's yearly development efforts and features screenings of top independent content, educational panels, fan events, red carpet premieres, and more. For more information on the NYTVF, the annual Festival and these competitions, visit www.nytvf.com.

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Press Contacts:

Don Ciaramella / Matt Biscuiti
The Lippin Group
212-986-7080

don@lippingroup.com / matt@lippingroup.com