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NYC TV Fest to Offer Mentorship Programs

September 05, 2007

The New York Television Festival has announced that it will launch a new fellowship program at this year's festival that places independent TV pilot-makers in mentorships with prominent TV producers.

This innovative program will pair some of the biggest names in television with outstanding up-and-coming artists showcased at the festival. All writers, producers, and directors featured in the 2007 Independent Pilot Competition will be eligible to apply for placement.

"The fellowships speak directly to the core mission of the festival, which is to facilitate access in television," said Terence Gray, the event's founder, in a written statement. "Now, some of our most promising pilot-makers have an incredible opportunity to further not just their careers but their maturation as artists."

Fellowships will be given to four individuals, who will be given guidance and feedback from their mentors on how to best create and develop their next television project over the next six months.

If the project is developed into a new independent pilot, the pilot will automatically receive a specialty screening at the 2008 New York Television Festival.

The four executive producers who have signed on to the new program as mentors are:

- o Michael Davies (*Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, Power of 10*)
- o Tom Fontana (*St. Elsewhere, Oz, Homicide*)
- o Mitchell Hurwitz (*Arrested Development*)
- o Phil Rosenthal (*Everybody Loves Raymond*)

The festival debuted two years ago as the industry's first showcase for independent television. Recent pilots that premiered at the event and have been sold to major networks include the scripted comedy *Split the Difference* to NBC; the improv comedy pilot *Criss-Cross* to A&E Television Networks; and the reality series *Off the Hook* by Versus.

The third annual festival will run Sept 5-9, with the inaugural class of fellows announced at the closing night awards ceremony.

For more information, visit www.newyorktelevisionfestival.com.


--Anna Bengel

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