



Women in Film and Television-Toronto (WIFT-T) announces lineup of guest speakers for 2007 WIFT International Summit in July

(TORONTO – Thursday, May 31, 2007) Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T) is pleased to announce an outstanding lineup of industry leaders who will participate as speakers and panelists at the **2007 WIFT International Summit** in July. WIFT-T will host the **WIFT International Summit** from July 16-19, 2007 at the Park Hyatt Toronto.

“We are delighted that such an esteemed group of individuals has agreed to offer their valuable time to participate in the Summit,” said Sue Sheridan, Executive Director of WIFT-T. “Delegates will no doubt benefit from the breadth of skill and knowledge that will be available to them through the eclectic mix of workshops and panels.”

The **2007 WIFT International Summit** will feature more than 100 industry leaders who will lend their expertise and experience to more than 50 panels and workshops. Speakers will include commissioning editors, broadcast executives and key media professionals from around the world. Participants will include:

- Avi Armoza, Founder, Armoza International Media (Israel) - *Meet the International Distributors (Panel)*
- Don Gaudet, General Manager of Programming, SUN TV / Quebecor Media Inc. - *SunTV Convergence Pitch (Workshop)*
- Joan Hartogs, Executive VP, Landmark Media Inc. (U.S) - *Meet the International Distributors (Panel)*
- Paul Hoffert, CEO Noank Media, Faculty Fellow Harvard University - *Plugging into Multiplatform: A New Business Model*
- Marcia Martin, Vice President Production, CHUM – *Worldwide Trends in Television Lifestyle and Documentary (Panel)*
- Gabriella Martinelli, President, Capri Films - *Leveraging Canada: Co-Productions for Film and Television (Panel)*
- Trina McQueen, President, Hutton-Belleville Inc. – *Beyond the Glass Ceiling: The View From Here (Panel)*
- Linda Schuyler, CEO, Epitome Pictures Inc. - *Leveraging Canada: Co-Productions for Film and Television (Panel)*

- Christine Shipton, Vice President of Original Programming, CanWest MediaWorks Inc. - *The Business of Pitching Your Film and TV Project (Panel)*
- Elizabeth Skoler, Senior Vice President Business and Legal Affairs and Co-productions, MTV Networks (U.S.) – *Co-Ventures: Right for Your Project? (Workshop)*
- Esther Van Messel, CEO, First Hand Films World Sales (Switzerland) - *The Business of Pitching Your Film and TV Project (Panel)*
- Barbara Williams, Senior Vice President, Programming & Production, CanWest MediaWorks Inc. – *Worldwide Trends in Film and Television Drama and Comedy (Panel)*

For bios and a complete list of speakers, panels and workshops, or for more information on registration, hotel accommodations and a complete schedule of events, visit the WIFT-T website at www.wift.com. Please note that hotel reservations must be made by June 25, 2007 to receive the discounted rate. Reservation requests received after that date will be based on availability at the Park Hyatt Toronto's existing rates.

The **WIFT International Summit** is expected to draw 600 delegates from around the world, bringing together the film and television community from Afghanistan to New Zealand. For four days, delegates will be inspired by panels, workshops, screenings and special events. The WIFT International Summit will also provide Toronto the opportunity to spotlight its diverse talent and encourage international business opportunities that can assist Canadian production companies and filmmakers in creating strong products that are viable in the worldwide market. Held every two years in a different country, 2007 will mark the first year this event has been held in Toronto.

Women in Film and Television – Toronto is one of nearly 40 chapters worldwide affiliated with WIFT International (WIFTI), a global network comprised of more than 10,000 members dedicated to advancing professional development and achievement for women working in all areas of screen-based media.

The **2007 WIFT International Summit** is presented in partnership with NBC Universal and in association with Kodak Canada Entertainment Imaging, Heenan Blaikie LLP, Goodmans LLP, Deluxe, Humber School of Media Studies and Information Technology, Program for Export Market Development, Kay & Warburton, Alliance Atlantis Communications, Canada Goose, SUN TV, Sumo, MAC Cosmetics, Ontario Media Development Corporation, the Canadian Guild of Film Composers, S-VOX, Innoversity Creative Summit, Comweb, Emerson Textile, New Brunswick Film and Shibley Righton LLP. Selected sessions of the Summit will be simulcast online for the first time ever and will be sponsored by the Women In Film /General Motors Alliance.

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.

General Motors Corporation is the **National Presenting Sponsor of Women In Film**. The **Women In Film/General Motors Alliance** was created to support women in the entertainment industry and to expand Women In Film chapter programs across the country. The multi-year initiative was announced in Los Angeles in January 2005 and is supporting programs as diverse as the Film Finishing Fund, Women's Film Preservation Fund, Legacy Series, PSAs, scholarships, mentorships and local WIF chapter award events across the nation. For more information about the WIF/GM Alliance and its programs, visit www.women-in-film.com.

Founded in 1973 in Los Angeles, **Women In Film** (www.wif.org) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to women in the global entertainment industry. Its purpose is to empower, promote, nurture and mentor women in the industry through a network of valuable contacts, events, programs, workshops, finishing funds and scholarships. In the U.S., there are chapters in Arizona, California (3), Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas (2), Washington and Washington, D.C. The international network, Women In Film and Television International (www.wifti.org), of which WIF-Los Angeles is a founding member, boasts 35 chapters on six continents. Member chapters range from developing nations to countries with established industries, including the U.S., Australia, Canada, France, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom, to name a few.

General Motors Corp. (NYSE: GM), the world's largest automaker, has been the annual global industry sales leader for 76 years. Founded in 1908, GM today employs about 280,000 people around the world. With global headquarters in Detroit, GM manufactures its cars and trucks in 33 countries. In 2006, 9.1 million GM cars and trucks were sold globally under the following brands: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, GM Daewoo, Holden, HUMMER, Opel, Pontiac, Saab, Saturn and Vauxhall. GM's OnStar subsidiary is the industry leader in vehicle safety, security and information services. More information on GM can be found at www.gm.com.

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