

BANFF Honours ZDF German Television with Global Television Outstanding Achievement Award 2003

(Cannes, France, March 25, 2003) ZDF German Television, one of Europe's largest broadcasters and a leading provider of high-quality factual programming, is the recipient of this year's prestigious Global Television Outstanding Achievement Award at the 24th Banff Television Festival, June 8 to 13, 2003. The award will be presented to ZDF at a special evening Tribute celebration on Tuesday, June 10.

In making the announcement today at a MIP-TV media conference in Cannes, Pat Ferns, president and CEO of the Banff Television Foundation praised ZDF for its impressive contribution to the German and worldwide television industry. For more than four decades, ZDF has been informing and entertaining German audiences with a superb public broadcasting service. In more recent times, ZDF German Television and ZDF Enterprises have been playing a key role in creating international programming of the highest standard through co-productions and partnership. We have recognized its work in the past in the Banff Rockie Awards and now we honour its outstanding achievement as a whole.

We are proud to be honoured by the Banff Television Festival for our efforts in the international market, said Markus Schchter, director general of ZDF. It is a great honour for ZDF, as the national German broadcaster, to be part of the worldwide community of premium programming television stations. With our quadrangle of cultural programming, which includes Arte, 3sat, the Theaterkanal and ZDF, and with the highest share of first-class documentaries in culture, history and science, we have become a leader in the European market. Today, ZDF is the biggest information provider in German television. A network of worldwide correspondents and partnerships with major news providers supplies us with top quality international news for ZDF viewers. The Global Television Outstanding Achievement Award is a great honour and will inspire ZDF to continue providing top quality programming.

ZDF began in 1961 as a public service television station. Today, the ZDF channel is broadcast nationwide terrestrially as well as by cable and satellite reaching 100% of German television households. Its mandate is to provide information, education and entertainment for all citizens. Commercial activities are managed by ZDF Enterprises GmbH, which has received worldwide industry recognition for its high-quality co-productions in collaboration with international partners. ZDF has 3,600 regular employees at the corporation's headquarters and broadcasting centre in Mainz, Germany and in 16 domestic and 19 foreign bureaus. Widespread international cooperation with other TV Networks such as NBC, TBS, ITN, RAI, TF1 or Al-Jazeera, strengthen the transnational range of activities. ZDF together with the commercial broadcaster RTL and the public service broadcaster ARD is one of the three leading companies in market share. Especially strong in news and current affairs, emphasis is placed on producing top quality information programming as in the heute news bulletins and weekly in-depth magazines. ZDF, together with the BBC, has become one of the most important producers of state-of-the-art documentaries in Europe. For more information, go to www.zdf.de.

The winner of the Global Television Outstanding Achievement Award is selected annually by the Banff Television Foundation's Board of Governors, currently chaired by Trina McQueen, president of Hutton-Belleville Inc. (See attached Board of Governors list). The award recognizes a body of work over time and is one of the world's pre-eminent television prizes. (A complete list of past recipients is attached).

Banff 2003, the 24th Banff Television Festival, takes place June 8 to 13 at the Fairmont Banff Springs in the Canadian Rockies. It is expected to draw over 1,800 producers, broadcasters, commissioning editors, content creators and other industry stakeholders from around the world who will take part in an array of plenary sessions, seminars, Master Classes, pitching and networking opportunities. For more information, go to www.banff2003.com.

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CanWest Global Communications Corp. (NYSE: CWG; TSE: CGS.S and CGS.A; www.canwestglobal.com) is an international media company. CanWest, Canada's largest publisher of daily newspapers, owns, operates and/or holds substantial interests in newspapers, conventional television, out-of-home advertising, specialty cable channels, radio networks and Internet portals in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Fireworks, the Company's program production and distribution division, operates in several countries throughout the world.

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Attachments:

* Board of Governors List
* Past Award Recipients

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Global Television Outstanding Achievement Award Honour Roll

1985 Granada, UK
1986 WDR, Germany
1987 MTM Enterprises, USA
1988 NHK, Japan
1989 TV Globo, Brazil
1990 BBC Natural History Unit, UK
1991 Ted Turner, USA
1992 Dr. Reiner Moritz, Germany
1993 Children's Television Workshop, USA
1994 Société Radio-Canada, Canada
1995 Canal+, France
1996 WGBH Boston, USA
1997 Channel Four Television, UK
1998 BBC Drama, UK
1999 ARTE, France, Germany
2000 SBS Television, Australia
2001 Discovery Communications, Inc., USA
2002 A&E Television Networks, USA

Board of Governors - Banff Television Foundation

Trina McQueen, President, Hutton-Belleville Inc., Canada (Chair)

Dawn Airey, Managing Director, Sky Networks, BSkyB, UK

Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, Chairman, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Canada

Leonard Asper, President & CEO, Canwest Global Communications Corp., Canada

Dominique Baudis, President, Conseil Supérieur de l'Audio-Visuel, France

Peter Bazalgette, Creative Director, GMG Endemol Entertainment Plc, UK

Paule Beaugrand-Champagne, Présidente-directrice générale, TÎ-Québec, Canada

Henry Becton, Jr., President, WGBH, USA

Charles Blanger, Chairman, Telefilm Canada

Jacques Bensimon, Government Film Commissioner & Chairperson, National Film Board of Canada

Rudy Buttignol, Creative Head, Documentaries, Drama & Network, TVOntario, Canada

Peter Casey, Executive Producer/Creator, Frasier, Grub Street Productions, USA
John Cassaday, President & CEO, Corus Entertainment Inc., Canada
Robert Chua, Founder/Chairman, China Entertainment Television Broadcast Ltd.
Wayne Clarkson, Executive Director, Canadian Film Centre
J r me Cl ment, Pr sident, ARTE France
Drew Craig, President & CEO, Craig Broadcast Systems Inc., Canada
Patrick Dromgoole, Chairman, PDP, UK
Greg Dyke, Director General, BBC, UK
Katsuji Ebisawa, President, NHK, Japan
Charles Falzon, President, Falzon Media, Canada
Ivan Fecan, President & CEO, Bell Globemedia Inc., Canada
John Ford, U.S.A.
Fernando Ghia, Producer, Pixit SRL, Italy
Whitney Goit II, Executive Vice President, A&E Television Networks, USA
Herbert Granath, Chairman Emeritus, ESPN, USA
Ian Greenberg, President & CEO, Astral Communications Inc., Canada
Mary Hofstetter, President & CEO, The Banff Centre, Canada
Norman Horowitz, President, The Norman Horowitz Company, USA
Michael Jackson, Chairman, Universal Television Group, USA
Bruce Johansen, President/CEO, NATPE, USA
Huw Jones, Chief Executive, S4C, UK
David Kessler, Directeur g n ral, Centre National de la Cin matographie, France
Pierre Lampron, Pr sident, TVA International Inc., Canada
Laurier L. LaPierre O.C., Senator, Government of Canada
Sang Gil Lee, Manager, Animation Department, RainBus Studio (KOCCA), Korea
Hock Chuan Lim, CEO, Singapore Broadcasting Authority
Phil Lind, Vice Chairman, Rogers Communications Inc., Canada
Ted Lingard, General Manager, Sonic Foundry Media Services, USA
Fran ois Macerola, Avocat, Contenu canadien au 21i me si cle, Canada
Michael MacMillan, Chairman & CEO, Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc., Canada
Peter Matlare, CEO, South African Broadcasting Corporation
Elizabeth McDonald, President & CEO, Canadian Film & Television Production Association
Nigel Milan, Managing Director, SBS Corporation, Australia
Liam Miller, Managing Director, Organization & Development, Radio Telefis ireann, Ireland
Desmond Monaghan, Executive Director, Screentime Pty Ltd., Australia
Leslie Moonves, President & CEO, CBS, USA
Glenn O'Farrell, President & CEO, Canadian Association of Broadcasters
Jerry Offsay, President, Programming, Showtime Networks Inc., USA
Jobst Plog, Intendant/General Manager NDR, President ARTE G.E.I.E., Germany
Robert Rabinovitch, President & CEO, CBC/Radio-Canada
Carlo Sartori, Secretary General, Prix Italia, Italy
Markus Sch chter, Director General, ZDF, Germany
Vivian Schiller, General Manager/Senior VP, Discovery Times Channel., USA
Simon Shaps, Chief Executive, Granada Content, UK
Doug Spears, Director of Sales, Sennheiser, Canada
Richard Stursberg, Executive Director, Telefilm Canada
Ives Swennen, Directeur des Coproductions, RTBF, Belgium
Marc Tellier, President & CEO, Bell ActiMedia, Canada
David Tenzer, Agent, Creative Artists Agency, USA
Marc Tessier, Pr sident-directeur g n ral, France T l vision
Mark Thompson, Chief Executive, Channel 4 Television, UK
Michael von Wolkenstein, President, SATEL Group, Austria
Ron Waters, Vice Chairman of the Board, CHUM Limited, Canada
Gerhard Weis, Director General, ORF, Austria
Ernest Wong, Group Chief Executive Officer, MediaCorp of Singapore PTE Ltd.
Kiyoshi Yamakawa, Corporate Advisor, SONY Corporation, Japan

(As at March 5, 2003)