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Michael Geddes of Lone Eagle Entertainment Awarded Lions Gate/Maple Pictures Innovative Producer Award

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Reality-television visionary Michael Geddes of Lone Eagle Entertainment has won the 2005 Lions Gate/Maple Pictures Innovative Producer Award. The Award, to be presented at the Banff World Television Festival June 12 - 15, celebrates innovation and entrepreneurial excellence in the Canadian television industry. Kevin Beggs, President, Lions Gate Television and Brad Pelman, Co-President, Maple Pictures Corp. will award \$5,000 in prize money to Geddes at a special Awards Luncheon to be held on Monday, June 13th.

"Innovation is the key to success in this industry," said Kevin Beggs, President, Lions Gate Television. "This award was created to recognize true innovative thinking and we are pleased to recognize Michael Geddes' accomplishments this year."

"Michael Geddes' success in the competitive reality and formats markets is an inspiration to all Canadian producers," said Robert Montgomery, CEO of the Banff World Television Festival. "His ability to create inroads into the US market while maintaining a base in Canada, without relying on traditional Canadian funding sources, has taken him to the top. Geddes' initiative has made him a truly innovative producer."

Michael Geddes is known throughout Canada and internationally for being in the forefront of the reality genre, and his company, Lone Eagle Entertainment, is well recognized for its visionary programming. Geddes established his career with Atlantis Communications Inc., initially as the Head of Marketing in production and distribution and then as an integral part of the senior management team involved in the launch of Life Network in 1995. Later that year, Geddes took his experience and ignited his entrepreneurial spirit and opened his own company. His first production Get a Grip on Golf and the sports trivia cult hit Game On! heralded his place in the industry. From there, he brought Canada three seasons of the hit show Popstars. In 2002, Geddes was signed by Creative Artists Agency in Los Angeles to help spearhead his initiatives in the United States. He is now recognized as one of the few Canadian producers in this genre with major representation in Hollywood. With trailblazing projects such as Supermodels and Popstars under his belt, Geddes began to look beyond production and expanded Lone Eagle by incorporating a distribution arm that has seen the international sales of The Office Temps, Hooked Up and The Call, as well as domestic distribution sales for Canadian networks.

Applicants were invited to make submissions for review by a Jury made up of representation from Maple Pictures Corp., the Banff Television Festival Foundation and a member of the Canadian broadcasting/ production community. Past recipients of this award include Jamie Brown of Frantic Films, and Blair Peters/Chris Bartleman of Studio B Productions.

Lions Gate Entertainment is the premier diversified independent producer and distributor of motion pictures, television programming, home entertainment, family entertainment and video-on-demand content. Its prestigious and prolific library of 8000+ titles is one of the largest in the industry and the biggest in indie history. The Lions Gate brand name is synonymous with original, daring, quality entertainment in markets around the world.

Maple Pictures is a new Canadian force to be reckoned with. Boasting a genre-savvy, 1500+ title library and new release slate, Maple is the second largest independent filmed entertainment distributor in Canada and is poised to lead the evolution of the industry by delivering innovative, diverse and distinctive film, television, home and family entertainment.

The Banff World Television Festival will take place June 12 - 15, 2005, at the Fairmont Banff Springs amid the breathtaking Canadian Rockies. For complete details and to register, go to www.banff2005.com.

About The Banff World Television Festival

The Banff World Television Festival is owned by the Banff Television Festival Foundation and is produced by Achilles Media Ltd. on behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Board of Governors. The Foundation's Board of Governors is international in scope and represents the crème de la crème of producers and broadcasters. Achilles Media is a management organization for some of the world's leading television and new media industry events including the Banff World Television Festival, the World Congress of History Producers and nextMEDIA - The International Interactive Media Festival.

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