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THE GEMINI AWARDS

OCTOBER 20, 21 & 22, 2008

NOVEMBER 28, 2008

23rd Annual Gemini Awards Honours Five Recipients With Special Awards

(October 6, 2008) Toronto, ON—The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television today announced the recipients of its 2008 Special Awards, leading to the Academy's annual celebration of excellence, creativity and dedication in the television industry. Each of these winners has risen to the pinnacle of their profession and distinguished themselves across the Canadian cultural landscape. They will all be honoured for their outstanding achievements at upcoming galas in October and November in Toronto.

This year's honourees include:

- **Canada Award— *Qallunaat! Why White People Are Funny*...**presented at the Gemini News, Sports and Documentary Gala on Monday, October 20
- **Gordon Sinclair Award—*Don Newman*...**presented at the Gemini News, Sports and Documentary Gala on Monday, October 20
- **Earle Grey Award—*David Gardner*...**presented at the Gemini Drama, Variety and Comedy Gala on Wednesday, October 22
- **Margaret Collier Award—*David Cole*...**presented at the Gemini Drama, Variety and Comedy Gala on Wednesday, October 22
- **Gemini Humanitarian Award—*Gord Martineau*...**presented at the Gemini Broadcast Gala on Friday, November 28

The Gemini Awards will be presented over four nights in the following categories:

- Gemini News, Sports and Documentary Gala—Monday, October 20 at Toronto's Liberty Grand
- Gemini Lifestyle, Children's and Youth Gala—Tuesday, October 21 at Toronto's Liberty Grand
- Gemini Drama, Variety and Comedy Gala—Wednesday, October 22 at Toronto's Liberty Grand
- Gemini Broadcast Gala—Friday, November 28 at the John Bassett Theatre at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre

The Broadcast Gala will be simulcast on E! network and Showcase at 9:00 p.m. (ET/PT) Friday, November 28th.

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23rd Annual Gemini Special Awards:

Gordon Sinclair Award—Don Newman

This award is presented to a Broadcast Journalist for an exceptional body of work in Canadian television journalism, or for significant contribution to Canadian television journalism.

Don Newman's career in broadcast journalism serves as a model for any young person considering a career in journalism or currently pursuing the profession. He has spent 40 years reporting to Canadians and for Canadians, with diligence and integrity. He is known and respected by the powers that be in this country, and by every Canadian who has witnessed Canadian political developments over the last few decades.

Mr. Newman's mastery of his craft can also be seen in his skill and initiative as a mentor for the young reporters in the Parliamentary bureau. His peers have recognized his work in television journalism by honouring him with several awards. He has also been recognized for his journalistic achievements with the Order of Canada.

Don Newman is a national political broadcasting pioneer. Canada is fortunate to have had a journalist of his abilities leading the country into the brave new world of 24-hour news. He has set high standards and he maintains them.

Earle Grey Award—David Gardner

This award is presented to an actor/actress for a body of work in Canadian television or for significant contribution to the international profile of Canadian television.

David Gardner has enjoyed a long and varied career in television and theatre. After performing in close to 100 roles on CBC TV by 1956, the CBC asked him to work on the other side of the camera in 1959. For nine years, Gardner became one of the few Canadian actors who has also directed for television. He directed 75 TV shows including W.O Mitchell's *Jake and the Kid*, and a spoof on James Bond called *The Reluctant Agent*. Classic productions included Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* starring Bill Hutt, *The Applecart* and *The Doctor's Dilemma* by Bernard Shaw as well as major Canadian dramas such as Gratien Gelinas' *Yesterday the Children Were Dancing* and Timothy Findley's *The Paper People* (the CBC's first feature-length film) for which he received the 1967 Wilderness Award for Direction. However, Gardner is probably remembered best for the Canadian classic, *Quentin Durgens MP*.

From 1980 to 2000 Gardner played sustaining roles in five major Canadian series: *Home Fires*, *Street Legal*, *Robocop*, *The City* and *Traders* in which he won a Gemini in 1997 playing Sonya Smits' father. The 1990s were good for Gardner as well with roles in *Counterstrike*, with Christopher Plummer, *Family Blessings*, *Road to Avonlea* with Sarah Polley, *Scales of Justice* with David Cronenberg and numerous roles in *ENG*, *Night Heat* and *Seeing Things*.

Gemini Humanitarian Award—Gord Martineau

This award honours contributions and commitments to community and public service outside of the television industry, by members of the television industry. The Gemini Humanitarian Award recognizes humanitarian efforts, which are involved in or connected with improving people's lives and reducing suffering. The award honours an individual who exemplifies the qualities of compassion and humanitarianism.

Born and raised in Montreal, Mr. Martineau has been in broadcasting since his first job straight out of high school at a Halifax radio station. After stints in radio and television in Montreal, he joined Citytv in 1977 where he quickly earned the reputation as one of Toronto's favourite anchors and has received numerous awards including the 2007 Gemini Award for Best News Anchor and the Radio-Television News Directors' Association 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award.

More importantly, Mr. Martineau has developed a reputation as a selfless volunteer with several organizations in the GTA. His willingness to advocate on behalf of the Hospital for Sick Children's Herbie Fund has significantly increased and enhanced the health of children everywhere.

Mr. Martineau also works with Second Chance Scholarship and he took a personal initiative to contact CARE to document the ongoing recovery efforts in Indonesia after its devastating earthquake. With GlobalMedic, Mr. Martineau has accompanied the brave men and women on disaster relief deployments to show the rest of Canada and the world the kind of impact ordinary Canadians can make.

Margaret Collier Award—David Cole

This award is presented to a writer for a body of work in Canadian television or for significant contribution to the international profile of Canadian television.

The late David Cole was awarded multiple Gemini Awards prior to his death this year. He was a distinguished writer and producer of both hour-long drama and half-hour comedies and had spent the last several years focusing on the world of 3D animation.

Mr. Cole's first writing job in television was with the CBC classic, *Seeing Things*, which he wrote for three seasons and won a Gemini for Best Writing in a Comedy/Variety/Entertainment/Performing Arts Program or Series for his script *The Night Has a Thousand Eyes*. Mr. Cole has contributed one-off episodes to various shows including *E.N.G.* for which he received a Gemini nomination for Best Writing in a Dramatic Series. Mr. Cole wrote and co-produced *Cold Squad* and *Due South* garnering a nomination for the WGC Top Ten Award and winning the People's Choice Award at the 1999 Geminis. He also developed *The Hardy Boys* as a live action comedy drama for Nelvana and was co-exec producer with Christina Jennings on Shaftesbury's *Screech Owls*. Mr. Cole wrote four episodes of *Charlie Jade* while working as Executive Story Editor on location in Capetown, South Africa. As Executive Consultant and head writer, Cole has been responsible for more than 100 episodes at Nelvana including *Delta State*, *Di-Gata Defenders* and the Academy Award-winning *Bob and Margaret*, on which he worked two seasons and received a WGC Top Ten nomination in 2002. His most recent project, *Skyland* for 9 Story Productions won the 2007 Gemini for Best Animated Series.

Canada Award— Qallunaat! Why White People Are Funny

The Canada Award honours excellence in mainstream television programming which best reflects the racial and cultural diversity of Canada. The general objectives of the Canada Award are:

- 1. To foster a greater awareness among Canadians of the multicultural and multiracial nature of the country.*
- 2. To promote greater opportunity for ethnic and visible minority professionals within the broadcasting industry on both sides of the camera.*

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Qallunaat! Why White People Are Funny is a docu-comedy collaboration between filmmaker Mark Sandiford and Inuit writer and satirist Zebedee Nungak. Nungak is CEO and head researcher at the mythical Qallunaat Studies Institute (QSI). He says, "Qallunaat (Inuit word for white people) ought to be the object of some kind of study by other cultures. The more I thought about the way they have studied us over the years, it occurred to me: Why don't we study them?" *Qallunaat! Why White People Are Funny* brings the documentary form to an unexpected place. Those who held the mirror up to Inuit culture finally have it turned back upon them.

Filmmaker Mark Sandiford's extended time in the Arctic resulted in a fresh, funny and long overdue "study" of Qallunaat from the Inuit point of view. Not surprisingly, these "Qallunologists" found the ways of white culture a bit peculiar when reviewing its odd dating habits, lame attempts at Arctic exploration, overbearing bureaucrats, need for police, and curious obsession with owning property.

The Canada Award is sponsored by CBC. Canada lives here
The Gemini Humanitarian Award is sponsored by Global.

For more information on the 23rd Annual Gemini Awards, visit www.geminiawards.ca.

The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television is a national, non-profit, professional association dedicated to the promotion, recognition and celebration of exceptional achievements in the Canadian film and television industries. Created in 1979, and today unifying industry professionals across Canada, the Academy is a vital and integral force representing these industries.

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