



**SUPERSTAR COMEDIAN RUSSELL PETERS TO HOST THE 26th ANNUAL GEMINI AWARDS
SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 AT 8 P.M. (8:30 NT) ON CBC-TV**

AUGUST 16, 2011 – CBC Television and the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television announced today that global comedy star **Russell Peters** will host the **26th ANNUAL GEMINI AWARDS**. Winner of the 2008 Gemini Award for ‘Best Performance or Host in a Variety Program or Series’ and four-time Gemini Award nominee, Peters will return to his hometown of Toronto, Ontario to host the star-studded celebration that honours the best in Canadian television. The **26th ANNUAL GEMINI AWARDS** will be broadcast live on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 8 p.m. (8:30 NT) on CBC Television from the CBC Broadcast Centre in Toronto. Special musical performances and celebrity presenters will be announced in the coming weeks.

“I’m excited about hosting the Emmys, but since that’s not happening, these Geminis are going to be amazing. Plus this will be a great warm-up for when I do host the Emmys,” jokes **Peters**.

“We’re thrilled that Russell Peters, who’s known worldwide for his sell-out standup tours, is coming to CBC to host the Geminis,” said **Kirstine Stewart, executive vice-president, English Services, CBC**. “Who better than a great Canadian talent to celebrate - great Canadian talents?”

“Russell Peters is brilliant! We are delighted he will host the **26th ANNUAL GEMINI AWARDS** and entertain Canadians from coast to coast on the live CBC broadcast,” said **Helga Stephenson, interim CEO, Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television**.

Born in Toronto, **Russell Peters** is a global comedy and Internet sensation. His YouTube clips have been viewed over 60 million times and he has performed to sold-out crowds from Toronto’s Air Canada Centre, to New York’s Madison Square Garden, to the Sydney Opera House to London’s O2 Arena where he established a new attendance record. Over the course of his twenty-plus-year career, he has headlined comedy festivals throughout North America and has performed sold-out arena tours worldwide. In 2009 and 2010, he made the *Forbes* list of top earning comedians in the United States along with Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld. Peters’ first book, *Call Me Russell*, was a number one bestseller, and his new movie, *Breakaway*, will premiere at The Toronto International Film Festival on September 10th, and will be in theatres this September. In October, Peters will be inducted into Canada’s Walk of Fame. Peters is also a Gemini Award winner (‘Best Performance or Host in a Variety Program or Series’) for hosting the Juno Awards in 2008.

Launched by the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television in 1986, The Gemini Awards honour outstanding achievements in the Canadian English-language television and new media industries. The Gemini Awards bring together over 2,500 of Canada’s most gifted craftspeople, producers and decision-makers over several evenings of special events. The **26th ANNUAL**

GEMINI AWARDS will be broadcast live on Wednesday, **September 7, 2011 at 8 p.m. (8:30 NT)** on **CBC Television** from the CBC Broadcast Centre in Toronto.

For a complete list of nominations and supporting media materials, please visit www.geminiawards.ca/ . For supporting photography, please visit <http://mediacentre.cbc.ca>

About CBC/Radio-Canada

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. The Corporation is a leader in reaching Canadians on new platforms and delivers a comprehensive range of radio, television, Internet, and satellite-based services. Deeply rooted in the regions, CBC/Radio-Canada is the only domestic broadcaster to offer diverse regional and cultural perspectives in English, French and eight Aboriginal languages, plus seven languages for international audiences. In 2011, CBC/Radio-Canada is celebrating 75 years of serving Canadians and being at the centre of the democratic, social and cultural life of Canada.

About ACCT

Established in 1979, the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television is a national, non-profit, professional association dedicated to the promotion, recognition and celebration of exceptional achievements in Canadian film, television and digital media. Unifying industry professionals across Canada, the Academy is a vital force representing all screen-based industries.

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