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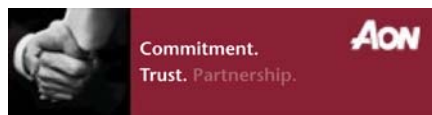
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## Daily News Thursday, June 14, 2007



### **Banff Festival--Deals Abound**

A slew of new deals was brokered at the 2007 Banff World Television Festival, which wrapped today. "The market for deal making has reached new heights in BANFF this year," enthused David Fox, of New York-based David Fox & Associates. "I wouldn't be surprised if a record number of ideas got the green light." Jon Plowman, Head of Comedy for the BBC in London, added: "I don't know of anywhere else in the world where the meeting of program makers and commissioners yields such a rich mix of talent and opportunity."

Some of the deals done this year included Canadian producers Breakthrough Films & Television and Buffalo



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Gal Pictures, who inked a deal to partner on 13 half-hours of *Less Than Kind*, a teen sitcom for CHUM Television. As part of an expanded drama slate, Breakthrough and Silver Tip Pictures agreed to shoot a pilot for *Easton Meets West*, a light-hearted drama for the CBC. Breakthrough also signed a deal with Canadian premium pay TV networks The Movie Network and Movie Central to produce *Confessions of a Porn Addict - A Love Story*, a comic mockumentary. In addition, Movie Central and The Movie Network are to partner on a new, eight-part drama, *The Weight*, a portrait of two corrupt cops from screenwriters George F. Walker and Dani Romain, who are executive producing with Debbie Nightingale.



BWTVF also saw Vancouver-based producer Crescent Entertainment sign an agreement with Channel Four International in which the British partner will get the first option to develop and distribute Crescent TV shows. Also busy in Banff were Thunderbird Films and Los Angeles-based Program Partners, who sold Merv Griffin's *Crosswords* to Rogers Media's OMNI Television for its fall 2007 schedule, and to CHUM Television's ACCESS and Canadian Learning Television cable channels.

HGTV Canada and UK-based Discovery Green Planet commissioned 13 half-hours of *World's Greenest Homes* from Toronto-based producer Cineflix Productions at BWTVF this year. HGTV Canada also ordered a pilot for *The Stagers*, from Vancouver-based Paperny Films. VisionTV, Canada's multi-faith channel, announced in Banff that it is to team up with APTN to produce *Rabbit Fall* a six-part drama, produced by Angel Entertainment of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Corus Entertainment's YTV and Vancouver producer Nerd Corps Entertainment signed a deal to produce *Storm Hawks*, a 3D cartoon to launch on mobile, online and VOD before its September 2007 TV debut.

With attendance from leading broadcast executives and decision-makers from 25 countries around the world and, according to feedback from delegates, its strongest-ever lineup of speakers and panels, BWTVF was once again the place where delegates made their ideas a reality. Attendance held strong at the Festival, with close to 1,450 attendees. With the runaway success of its sister-event nextMEDIA - The Future of Digital Content, the combined attendance of the two events reached 1,800.

Over \$100,000 in prizeing was awarded at this year's pitching sessions where winners have the opportunity to turn their ideas and concepts into real productions. This year's winners include:

CTV CANADIAN DOCUMART (\$60,000 in development funding)

First prize and \$30,000 was presented to *Boy Genius & Bobby Fisher* by John Chris Tou.

Second prize and \$20,000 was presented to *Taqwacore* by Omar Majeed.

Third prize and \$10,000 was presented to *Murder for Love* by Larry Day.

#### PITCH IT!: THE N NETWORK YOUTH DRAMA PITCH

*Days and Nights at Camp Kanata* by Chris Carter and Adam Jack won a development prize of US \$10,000 from The N Network. The winner of the Youth Drama pitch also received a \$5,000 motion picture film product grant as prizeing for this year's Audience Choice Award, provided by returning sponsor Kodak Canada Inc.

## PITCH IT!: UK TV STYLE LIFESTYLE PITCH

Property Protégé by Lyndsay Duthie won a development prize of £5,000 from UK TV STYLE.

## PITCH IT!: THE COMEDY NETWORK COMEDY PITCH

Frankie Fats by Scott Feschuk and Scott Reid won a development prize of \$10,000 from the Comedy Network.

## PITCH IT!: FOX 21 REALITY PITCH

Man Camp by Josh Levy and Robi Levy won a development deal with Fox 21.

## iPITCH

Kwad9 by Jean-Francois Grenier won a development prize of \$10,000 from the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund.

For more information of this year's Festival please visit [www.bwtvf.com](http://www.bwtvf.com). The 29th annual Banff World Television Festival will be held June 8-11, 2008 at the Fairmont Banff Springs in Banff, Canada.

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