



STRONG CREATIVE TALENT DRIVES MOVIE CENTRAL AND THE MOVIE NETWORK'S PRODUCTION SLATE

(June 11, 2007 – Banff, Alberta) – **Corus Entertainment's Movie Central** and **Astral Media's The Movie Network** announced today that two new original drama series will start production this summer – **ZOS: Zone of Separation** and **The Weight**. In addition, a fourth season of the Gemini award-winning dramatic series **ReGenesis** will also resume production this summer.

The eight-part series **ZOS: Zone of Separation** explores the life-and-death struggle to enforce a United Nations-brokered ceasefire, as peacekeepers face the harsh reality of living in a violent Zone of Separation. Produced by Whizbang Films (*H2O* and *Men With Brooms*), the series' creative team includes executive producers **Paul Gross**, **Frank Siracusa**, **Mario Azzopardi** (*The Outer Limits*) and **Malcolm MacRury** (*Deadwood*, *Canada Russia '72*, *Lives of the Saints*), with Mario Azzopardi directing and Malcolm MacRury as writer and show-runner. Screenwriters include **Peter Mitchell** (*Cold Squad*), **Paul Aitken** (*North/South*) and screenwriter/playwrights **John Krizanc** (*The Trojan Horse*, *H2O*), and **Jason Sherman** (*ReGenesis*, *An Acre of Time*). **ZOS: Zone of Separation** begins shooting in Bosnia in mid-June, before returning to Canada where production will continue in Toronto, Ontario, through October 2007. Movie Central and The Movie Network, which developed, commissioned and invested in the series, will premiere the series in spring/summer 2008.

The Weight is an eight-part series that tells the story of Max and Donny, two cops who are often as morally ambiguous as the criminals they pursue. Created and written by playwright/screenwriter **George F. Walker** (*This Is Wonderland*, *Criminals in Love*) and **Dani Romain** (*This Is Wonderland*), **The Weight** is being produced by the Nightingale Company. The series creative team includes executive producers George F. Walker, Dani Romain and **Debbie Nightingale**, producer **Norman Denver**, director **Gail Harvey** and executive story editor/associate producer **Joseph Kay**. Shooting in Toronto in mid-August, **The Weight** was developed and commissioned by Movie Central and The Movie Network, and will debut on Movie Central and The Movie Network in spring/summer 2008.

Also this summer, **ReGenesis** – the highly successful drama series that explores the threat of science on society – goes back into production in Toronto for 13 new episodes, bringing the series to 52 episodes to date. Produced by Shaftesbury Films with head writer **Tom Chehak** and actors **Peter Outerbridge** and **Wendy Crewson** among the creative talent, **ReGenesis** has sold in over 100 countries around the world, including the U.S. Movie Central and The Movie Network developed, commissioned and invested in the series. The fourth season of **ReGenesis** will premiere on Movie Central and The Movie Network in spring 2008.

In addition to these three series, Movie Central and The Movie Network have an active and robust drama series development slate with some of Canada's finest creative teams. Projects include a series written and created by **Alex Epstein** (*Naked Josh*, *Bon Cop*, *Bad Cop*) with producer **Robin Cass**, from Triptych Media; an adaptation of Vincent Lam's Giller Prize winning book **Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures** to be produced by Shaftesbury and written by Jason Sherman (**ZOS**, **ReGenesis**), and another series from writer/creator **Angus Fraser** and producer **Jayme Pfahl**, the team behind the networks' critically-acclaimed series *Terminal City*.

"Canadian pay TV's world-class drama series result from working with this country's best creative teams and allowing creators the freedom to realize their unique vision, while providing broadcaster support and direction," said Shelley Gillen, Head of Creative and Business Affairs for Movie Central. "In four short years, our dramas have met with both critical and commercial success, including most recently, *Durham County*. Just as HBO and Channel 4 dramas broke new ground, by pushing the boundaries of conventional television, we are equally ambitious and excited by what's to come."

“The past and recent successes of our Canadian original series such as *Durham County*, *Slings & Arrows*, *Terminal City*, and *ReGenesis* reinforce the fact that Canadians are looking for sophisticated, bold, high-quality television drama,” said Michelle Marion, Director of Canadian Independent Production, The Movie Network. “As a network, we are proud to be attracting innovative producers, writers, directors and actors who recognize pay-television as the ideal platform for telling stories that test boundaries, break rules and convey strong points of view.”

Movie Central is a 24-hour-a-day, commercial-free premium pay-TV service available to Western Canadians. Exclusive multi-year output agreements with major Hollywood studios ensure that Movie Central is the preferred destination for box office titles. In addition to being the first window, Canadian home to the best of HBO and Showtime, through its investments, pre-buys and licence fees for Canadian feature films and original series, Movie Central is recognized as a major force in the Canadian independent film and television production industry. The launch of Movie Central On Demand and Movie Central High Definition demonstrates that Movie Central remains committed to being first with innovations that enhance the viewing experience. Visit the Movie Central website at www.moviecentral.ca.

Movie Central is owned by **Corus Entertainment Inc.**, a Canadian-based media and entertainment company. Corus is a market leader in specialty television and radio with additional assets in pay television, advertising and digital audio services, television broadcasting, children’s book publishing and children’s animation. The company’s multimedia entertainment brands include YTV, Treehouse, W Network, Movie Central, Nelvana, Kids Can Press and radio stations including CKNW, CKOI and Q107. Corus creates engaging branded entertainment experiences for its audiences across multiple platforms. A publicly traded company, Corus is listed on the Toronto (CJR.B) and New York (CJR) exchanges. Experience Corus on the web at www.corusent.com.

The Movie Network is an Astral Media network available in eastern Canada. With premiere access to Hollywood hit movies, critically-acclaimed HBO and Showtime series and first-rate Canadian programming, this pay-television service presents Canadians with some of the best television entertainment available. The Movie Network service includes five 24-hour multiplex channels – *M*, *MMore*, *MExcess*, *MFun!* and *MFest* – which deliver diverse and entertaining programs in an uncut and commercial-free television environment. The Movie Network also offers *The Movie Network HD* and *MMore HD*, two dedicated high-definition channels providing hundreds of titles in HD; and *The Movie Network OnDemand*, a Subscription Video On Demand (SVOD) service, available in select areas across eastern Canada. As a major supporter of Canadian original programming, The Movie Network has contributed over \$315 million toward Canadian content since the launch of the channel in 1983. For more information, please visit www.themovienetwork.ca.

Astral Media is one of Canada's leading media companies, active in specialty, pay and pay-per-view television, radio and outdoor advertising. Astral Media's solid and dynamic presence in the country's major markets rests on its commitment to offer a unique combination of high-quality, targeted media for all its audiences. www.astralmedia.com.

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