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## **American Women in Radio & Television Announces 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Gracie National Award<sup>®</sup> Winners and Debut of Dedicated Gracies Web Site (TheGracies.org)**

*Grand Award Winners to be Named at Annual Gala  
Featuring the Biggest Names in News and Entertainment*

February 24, 2009 (McLean, VA) – American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT) is pleased to announce the 2009 winners of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Gracie Awards. National award winners will be presented at a black-tie Gala in the Broadway Ballroom of the New York Marriott Marquis on Wednesday, June 3, 2009. **Local market, public and student award winners will be announced later this week.**

From **Maya Angelou** to **Miley Cyrus** and **Katie Couric** to **Kathy Griffin**; from **CNN's Heroes 2008** to **MTV's Half of Us**, The Gracies each year recognize exemplary programming created for women, by women and about women in all facets of media and entertainment, as well as individuals who have made contributions to the industry. The awards program also encourages the realistic and multifaceted portrayal of women in entertainment, commercials, news, features and other programs.

In addition to the above, each year the Gracies Gala attracts the best and brightest in all aspects of the media. This year's national winners include: Lifetime's **Every Woman Counts**, NBC/Law & Order SVU's **Mariska Hargitay**, WE TV's **High School Confidential**, USA Network/Monk's **Traylor Howard**, Telepictures' **The Bonnie Hunt Show**, HBO/John Adams' **Laura Linney**, MSNBC's **Rachel Maddow**, CNBC's **Suze Orman**, Style Networks' **Ruby**, ABC's **Samantha Who?**, Sirius XM's **Barbara Walters**, HBO/In Treatment's **Dianne Wiest**, and Oxygen's **Who Cares About Girls?**—represent a broad cross-section of outstanding actors, anchors, stories and programs. **(See accompanying list for full release of winners.)**

Concurrent with the announcement of the 2009 winners is the launch of AWRT's newest website featuring all Gracies all the time. [www.TheGracies.org](http://www.TheGracies.org) is a comprehensive overview of Gracies past, present and future, including late breaking news and celebrity information.

"The power of this year's Gracie Award winners showcase how vital a role women in the industry continue to have," stated 2009 Chair of AWRT, Sylvia Strobel, Esq. "We are honored to shine a spotlight on them and debut the new website in conjunction with their recognition."

AWRT President Maria Efantis Brennan, CAE, added, "The Gracie statue serves as a beacon of achievement in our industry. We look forward to honoring these deserving programs and individuals. We're also delighted to have Dove and the Campaign for Real Beauty return as the Gracies' 2009 title sponsor."

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The Gracies are presented by the Foundation of AWRT, the philanthropic arm of AWRT, which supports educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public and women in the media. The Gracie Awards, established in 1975, honor programming and individuals of the highest caliber in all facets of radio, television, cable and web-based media, including news, drama, comedy, commercials, public service, documentary and sports.

Tickets for the Gala are \$395 for AWRT Members/\$450 for Non-Members and can be purchased online at [www.thegracies.org](http://www.thegracies.org).

Supporting the Gracies is synonymous with supporting women's achievements in all facets of media and entertainment. Reserve your table and demonstrate your commitment to the Foundation of AWRT, a 501(c)3 non-profit charity. Sponsored tables are available ranging from \$7,500 to \$20,000. For more information, please contact Kyle Fernley at (703) 506-3290.

For more information about the Gracie Awards, please visit [www.thegracies.org](http://www.thegracies.org).

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**About AWRT:** The year 2009 marks the 58th Anniversary of American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT), the longest established professional association dedicated to advancing women in media and entertainment. AWRT carries forth its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource to its members and the industry at large. Founded in 1951, AWRT works to improve the quality of electronic media; promote the entry, development and advancement of women in the field; foster communication and idea exchange; and give back to the community we serve.

**About The Foundation of AWRT:** The Foundation of AWRT is the philanthropic arm of American Women in Radio & Television, supporting educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Foundation of AWRT has created partnerships and joint-initiatives with the National Middle School Association, the Emma Bowen Foundation, the American Red Cross and other organizations that are philosophically aligned with the mission of the Foundation of AWRT. The Foundation supports several public service campaigns, including most recently AWRT Empowering America, which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this initiative, the Foundation of AWRT has adopted needy urban middle schools around the country and provided educational donations derived from collateral based on the Empowering America program. The Foundation also produces nationally acclaimed recognition programs, including the Gracie Awards®, a live, New York-based gala that honors exemplary programming created for, by and about women.

**2009 Gracie Awards  
National Award Winners**  
(In Alphabetical Order)

**Alexandra Wallace**

*Individual Achievement Award  
Outstanding Producer - News Series or  
Special  
NBC News*

**All My Children**

*Outstanding Daytime Drama  
ABC Daytime*

**America's Dirty Little Secret**

*Outstanding Investigative Program  
CNN*

**Barbara Walters**

*Individual Achievement Award  
Outstanding Host - Information or  
Entertainment  
Sirius/XM Radio*

**Brian Ross Investigates: Raped in Iraq**

*Outstanding Investigative Program  
ABC News*

**Candy Crowley Reports on Hillary  
Clinton's Bid for the White House**

*Outstanding Feature - Hard News Program  
CNN*

**Child Soldiers, D.R. Congo**

*Outstanding Documentary – Short Format  
NBC News*

**China's Devastating Quake**

*Outstanding Series  
CBS News*

**CNN Heroes 2008**

*Outstanding Special  
CNN*

**CNN Presents: Sarah Palin Revealed**

*Outstanding Documentary – Mid-Length  
Format  
CNN*

**Corny Koehl**

*Individual Achievement Award  
Outstanding Producer - Entertainment Series  
Harpo Radio*

**Debbi Morgan in All My Children**

*Individual Achievement Award  
Outstanding Female Lead - Daytime Drama  
ABC Daytime*

**Designing Women - Alba Colon**

*Outstanding Feature - Soft News Program  
ESPN*

**Dianne Wiest in In Treatment**

*Individual Achievement Award  
Outstanding Supporting Actress - Drama Series  
Home Box Office*

**Dr. Maya Angelou Show**

*Outstanding Talk Show  
Harpo Radio*

**Dr. Phil**

*Outstanding Interactive Web site  
Dr. Phil Show*

**E! True Hollywood Story:**

**Mariska Hargitay**  
*Outstanding Portrait/Biography  
E! Entertainment Television*

**Every Woman Counts Campaign**

*Outstanding Public Service Announcement -  
Campaign  
Lifetime Television*

**Half of Us - Cutters**

*Outstanding Public Service Announcement -  
Single Entry  
MTV On-Air Promos*

**Healthcare '08: Search for Solutions**

*Outstanding Public Affairs Program  
Retirement Living TV*

**High School Confidential**

*Outstanding Reality Show  
WeTV*

**I Am American Business**

*Outstanding Commercial - Campaign*  
CNBC

**Kathy Griffin in *My Life on the D List***

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Female Lead - Comedy Series*  
Bravo Media

**Katie Couric**

*Outstanding Anchor News or News Magazine*  
CBS News

**Lady Mechanics**

*Outstanding Feature - Soft News*  
World Vision Report

**Laura Linney in *John Adams***

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Female Lead - Drama Special*  
Home Box Office

**Live in Concert**

*Outstanding Special*  
Pineapple Productions

**Maria Hinojosa**

*Outstanding Reporter/Correspondent*  
NOW on PBS

**Mariska Hargitay in *Law & Order: SVU***

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Female Lead - Drama Series*  
NBC

**Mighty Macs**

*Outstanding Sports Program*  
ESPN

**Miley Cyrus**

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Female Lead - Comedy Series (Children/Adolescent)*  
Disney Channel

**Molly Solomon**

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Producer - Entertainment Series or Special*  
NBC Sports

**Muslim Polygamy in America**

*Outstanding Series*  
National Public Radio

**Picking Up the Pieces**

*Outstanding Documentary – Mid-Length Format*  
AARP - Primetime Radio

**Polygamy: A World Apart - Segments: Escape & the Reunion**

*Outstanding Magazine*  
CBS News

**President Musharraf**

*Outstanding Interview Program*  
CBS News

**Rachel Maddow**

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Host - News Program*  
MSNBC

**Ramona & the Unruly Dog**

*Outstanding Comedy*  
Greater Media

**Ruby**

*Outstanding Reality Show*  
The Style Network

**Samantha Who?**

*Outstanding Comedy*  
ABC

**Section 60**

*Outstanding Feature - Hard News Program*  
NBC News

**Sharon Liese**

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Director - News Series or Special*  
WeTV

**Susanna White**

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Director - Entertainment Series or Special*  
Home Box Office

**Suze Orman in *The Suze Orman Show***

*Individual Achievement Award*  
*Outstanding Host - Information or Entertainment*  
CNBC

**The Bonnie Hunt Show**

*Outstanding Talk Show*  
Telepictures

**The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo**

*Outstanding Documentary – Long Format*  
Home Box Office

**The Satellite Sisters**

*Outstanding Podcast*  
Satellite Sisters/Mudbath Productions

**The Secret Life of the American Teenager**

*Outstanding Drama*  
ABC Family

**Till Fear Do Us Part**

*Outstanding Public Affairs Program*  
Voice of Our World

**Traylor Howard in *Monk***

*Outstanding Supporting Actress - Comedy Series*  
USA Network

**True Jackson, VP**

*Outstanding For Adolescent Program*  
Nickelodeon

**Unsung . . . Family Voices on Mental Illness**

*Outstanding Public Service Announcement - Campaign*  
Mennonite Media

**Who Cares About Girls: Sex Workers or Victims**

*Outstanding Documentary – Mid-Length Format*  
Oxygen Media

**WordGirl**

*Outstanding For Children Program*  
Scholastic Media