



Daytime Host & Author Rachael Ray to Receive American Women in Radio and Television Tribute Award at 34th Annual Gracies Gala

(McLean, VA – May 18, 2009) – American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) is pleased to announce that daytime host and bestselling author **Rachael Ray** will receive the esteemed 2009 AWRT Tribute Award at this year's Gracie Awards Gala on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at New York's Marriott Marquis Hotel. This award was first presented on the 25th anniversary of The Gracies Gala and is bestowed upon an individual who truly makes a difference in the media and beyond. Rachael Ray's impressive success throughout a diverse cross section of media properties is a striking example of the achievements and accomplishments women can claim, and is very deserving of the AWRT Tribute Award.

The 2009 Gracie Awards Gala, to be hosted by **Niecy Nash** of the Style Network's *Clean House* and Comedy Central's *Reno 911*, will recognize exemplary programming created for women, by women, and about women in all facets of electronic media, including radio, television, cable and new media.

"Rachael Ray's multi-faceted career successes have sent a strong message of empowerment to women everywhere. She has taken her natural talent for cooking and her strong ability to connect with people and establish their trust, and developed an enterprise which continues to nurture a healthy relationship between food and family. We are proud to pay tribute to her with this award," emphasized AWRT President, Maria E. Brennan.

In just a few short years, Rachael Ray has created a diverse media brand as the multi-talented personality of all things culinary. Ray is a wildly successful television host, best-selling author, founder and editorial director of her own lifestyle magazine and founder of the Yum-o! organization and Rachael's Rescue. Newsweek praised Rachael Ray as being "the most down-to-earth TV star on the planet..." People magazine named *Rachael Ray* one of the top 10 shows of 2006, and Forbes voted her #2 "Most Trusted Celebrity." Business Week honored Rachael as one of the "Best Leaders of 2006" and Television Week named her "Syndication Personality of the Year" in 2007.

"It is humbling to be honored for anything, but this is especially meaningful to me as this award recognizes the incredible dedication and hard work of all the great people I work with to create the *Rachael Ray* show, *30 Minute Meals*, *Tasty Travels* and *Rachael's Vacation*," said Ray.

Rachael Ray first made her mark on media with multiple series on the Food Network, including *30-Minute Meals*, *Rachael's Vacations*, *Tasty Travels*, *\$40 A Day* and *Inside Dish* and in the fall of 2006, Rachael expanded her audience with the launch of her daytime syndicated program, *Rachael Ray*. Now in its 3rd successful season, *Rachael Ray*, takes the same philosophy that helped Rachael get America back into the kitchen and applies it to everyday problems. When *Rachael Ray* premiered in the fall of 2006, it scored the highest rated premiere for a syndicated talk show since the 2002 launch of *Dr. Phil*. It immediately secured its position among the top ranked daytime shows and was the #1 syndicated strip launched in the 2006-07 season. In 2006, Rachael garnered a Daytime Emmy Award for "Outstanding Service Show" and a nomination for "Outstanding Service Show Host" for The Food Network's *Inside Dish*. In 2007, *Rachael Ray* received a Daytime Emmy Award and was nominated for six others. *Rachael Ray* won the 2008 "Outstanding Talk Show—Entertainment" Emmy Award. And now in 2009, *Rachael Ray* has once again received several Emmy nominations; including "Outstanding Talk Show" and "Outstanding Talk Show Host." With positive praise and remarkable ratings the show has been renewed through 2010.

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In addition to Rachael's TV successes, she has turned her *30-Minute Meals* concept into a bestselling series of cookbooks, of which her seven most recent titles were all New York Times bestsellers. In 2005, Rachael launched a new lifestyle magazine bearing her vision called Every Day with Rachael Ray. Rachael serves as Founder and Editorial Director of the magazine, which was named "Launch of the Year" by Advertising Age in 2006. In 2007, the magazine earned a spot on AdWeek's "Hot List" as "Start Up of the Year," and was named to Advertising Age's "A-List" in 2008.

In the spring of 2007, Rachael Ray launched a non-profit organization, Yum-o! that empowers kids and their families to develop healthy relationships with food and cooking. By providing the tools to create easy, affordable and delicious meals, Yum-o! is changing the way America eats. Yum-o!'s three work areas include educating kids and their families about cooking, feeding hungry American kids and funding cooking education and scholarships.

The Gracies are presented by the Foundation of AWRT, the philanthropic arm of AWRT that supports educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Gracie Awards, established in 1975, honors 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.

The event is made possible through the generous support of the 2009 title sponsor Dove and *The Campaign for Real Beauty* and the following additional sponsors: Arbitron, CBS News, CNBC, CNN, Disney-ABC Television Group, Ford Motor Company Fund, Harpo Radio, Katz Media Group, National Public Radio, NBC, NCTA, VCI Solutions, and WE tv.

For more information about the 2009 Gracies, please visit www.thegracies.org.

CREDENTIALLED PRESS: For press information in regard to covering the red carpet and the event, please contact JLM Public Relations at 212-431-5227.

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 and 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 awards exemplary programming created for, by, and about women. Please visit its web site at www.awrt.org.