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American Women in Radio and Television Announces Primetime Star, Talk Show Host



Kelly Ripa to M.C. 29th Annual Gracie Allen Awards® Gala

March 19, 2004 (McLean, VA) – American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) will honor the 2004 National Gracie Allen Award winners at a celebrity gala at the New York Hilton Grand Ballroom on Tuesday, June 22, 2004. Award-winning talk show host and actor Kelly Ripa will serve as this year's Host and Honorary Chair of the event. The Gracie Allen Awards® (also known as "the Gracies®") recognizes exemplary programming created for women, by women, and about women in all facets of electronic media, including radio, television and cable.

Kelly Ripa is co-host of the syndicated morning talk show "Live with Regis and Kelly" and stars in ABC Television's primetime series "Hope and Faith." "Live with Regis and Kelly" has just been nominated for two 2004 Daytime Emmys in the Best Talk Show and Favorite Hosts categories. In the past three years hosting with Regis Philbin, Ripa has also received two Daytime Emmy nominations for Outstanding Talk Show Host. Ripa stars in the hit sitcom, "Hope & Faith," part of ABC's revival of the TGIF -- Thank Goodness It's Funny -- Friday night lineup.

Ripa concluded a 12-year stint as Hayley Vaughan on ABC's "All My Children." During her tenure she won three Soap Opera Digest Awards and received three Daytime Emmy nominations for Best Actress in a Drama Series. She also had a recurring role on the NBC primetime series "Ed." Her additional television credits include telefilms "Someone to Love" and "It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie."

In 2001, Ripa was among People Magazine's "25 Most Intriguing People" and E! Entertainment's "Top 20 Entertainers of the Year."

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Ripa and her husband Mark Consuelos met on the set of "All My Children" and married in 1996, a year before their characters married onscreen. The couple lives in New York with their three children, Michael, Lola and Joaquin.

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 Allen Awards, established in 1975, honors programming and individuals of the highest caliber in all facets of electronic media, including news, drama, comedy, commercials, public service, documentary, and sports.

For more information about the Gracie Allen Awards, please visit www.awrt.org.

About AWRT: The year 2001 marked the 50th Anniversary and a golden highlight for American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) Inc., the longest established professional association dedicated to advancing the impact of women in the electronic media and allied fields. Headquartered in the Washington, DC-metropolitan area, 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 media; serve as a medium for communication and idea exchange; and become active in community concerns.

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 Allen Awards[®], a live, New York-based gala that awards exemplary programming created for, by, and about women.

For more information about AWRT and the Foundation of AWRT, including membership, call its headquarters at (703) 506-3290, or visit its web site at www.awrt.org.

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