



For Immediate Release: October 11, 2005
Headquarters Contact: Laura Harvey, AWRT,
8405 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800, McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703-506-3290 ~ Fax: 703-506-3266 ~ lharvey@awrt.org

American Women in Radio and Television Announces the 31st Annual Gracie Allen Awards[®] Call for Entries

Gracies National Gala Scheduled for Monday, June 19 at New York Marriott Marquis

October 11, 2005 (McLean, VA) – The Foundation of American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) is inviting entries for the 31st Annual Gracie Allen Awards[®] (the Gracies[®]), the most prestigious industry award that recognizes exemplary programming created for women, by women and about women, as well as outstanding achievement by individuals.

For more than three decades, the Gracie Allen Awards have recognized extraordinary 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 deadline to submit entries is December 23, 2005.**

2005 AWRT Board President, Chickie Bucco, stated, "The Gracies statue represents much more than an award. It defines excellence, and recognizes the outstanding achievements of extraordinary women."

Maria Brennan, AWRT Executive Director, added, "The Gracies symbolize the strength of women in media and how far we've come. The 2006 Gracies will be particularly exciting because it coincides with AWRT's 55th Anniversary."

Last year's national Gracie Allen Awards program recognized individual achievement award winners such as ABC's *All My Children* star Susan Lucci, CNBC's Suze Orman, CBS' *The Early Show* Hannah Storm, and programming such as HBO's *Angels in America*, Nickelodeon's *Dora the Explorer* and National Public Radio's *Justice Learning* and many more, representing a broad cross-section of outstanding actors, producers, writers, correspondents and programs.

To qualify for entry, programs must have aired for the first time between December 1, 2004 and November 30, 2005. National winners will be honored at the star-studded Gracie Awards Gala, to be held June 19, 2006 at the New York Marriott Marquis. Local market, public and student award winners will be honored at the Gracie Awards Luncheon to be held June 20, 2006.

To obtain a copy of the Gracies Call for Entries, please visit www.awrt.org or contact AWRT Headquarters at (703) 506-3290.

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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.