



American Women in Radio & Television Announces NBC's *Will & Grace* Star, Megan Mullally, to Host 31st Annual Gracie Awards Gala

The Megan Mullally Show to Debut This Fall

May 4, 2006 (McLean, VA) – American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT) will honor the 2006 National Gracie Award winners at a celebrity Gala at the New York Marriott Marquis on Monday, June 19, 2006. Award-winning actress, and soon to be talk show host, **Megan Mullally**, will serve as this year's Host and Honorary Chair of the event. The Gracie Awards[®] (also known as "the Gracies[®]") recognize exemplary programming created for women, by women, and about women in all facets of electronic media, including radio, television, and cable.

Megan Mullally is best known for her role as "Karen Walker" on NBC's hit television show, *Will & Grace*. She made her television series debut with Elaine Stritch and Ellen Burstyn on *The Ellen Burstyn Show*. Mullally also appeared opposite Stanley Tucci as Walter Winchell's wife in Paul Mazursky's award-winning bio-pic *Winchell* and opposite Juliet Stevenson in Lifetime's *The Pact*. She has also appeared in the feature films *Anywhere but Here* and *Everything Put Together*.

As if movies and television weren't enough, Mullally is also an accomplished vocalist and has made two records with her band, Supreme Music Program. She also is scheduled to host her own syndicated daytime talk show, *The Megan Mullally Show*, this fall.

"Megan Mullally is truly a 'jack of all trades,' and master of them all," stated AWRT 2006 President, Chickie Bucco, President of Katz Media Direct Marketing Group in New York. "It's such an honor to have someone as talented and accomplished as Megan host AWRT's Gracie Allen Awards."

Added AWRT Executive Director, Maria E. Brennan, CAE, "Megan has been making us laugh on *Will & Grace* for many years. Her passion for her craft and commitment to philanthropic causes, make her the ideal host for this year's Gracies."

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 radio, television, cable and web-based media, including news, drama, comedy, commercials, public service, documentary and sports.

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The event is made possible through the generous support of our members, title sponsor Dove and *The Campaign for Real Beauty* and the following additional sponsors: Monica Horan; Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and SAM'S CLUB; ABC Radio Networks; CBS News; Clear Channel Communications; CNBC; CNN; Friends of Lesley Visser; HBO; Jones Radio Networks; Katz Media Group; Lifetime Entertainment Services; Oxygen Media LLC; The Kaplan Thaler Group; *The Suze Orman Show*; Interep and Washington Mutual.

Tickets for the Gala are \$275 for AWRT Members, \$300 for Non-Members, and \$350 (if available) at the door. Tickets for the Gala can be purchased online at www.awrt.org. Sponsored tables are also available. For more information, please contact Javier Cuebas at (703) 506-3290, ext. 2022.

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

About AWRT: The year 2006 marks the 55th 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, entertainment and allied fields. The Foundation of AWRT has created strategic alliances and joint-initiatives with the National Middle School Association, Emma Bowen Foundation, American Red Cross and other organizations that are philosophically aligned with the mission of the Foundation of AWRT.

The Foundation of AWRT supports several public service campaigns including most recently AWRT Empowering America, a radio PSA campaign which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this initiative, the Foundation of AWRT has adopted 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 recognizes 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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