

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES TO INDUCT BEA ARTHUR, LARRY GELBART, MERV GRIFFIN, DANIEL B. BURKE & THOMAS MURPHY AND SHERWOOD SCHWARTZ INTO HALL OF FAME TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

“Desperate Housewives” James Denton to Host Beverly Hills Hotel Ceremony; Presenters Include Florence Henderson, Robert Iger, Angela Lansbury, Norman Lear and Dawn Wells

North Hollywood, CA, Dec. 1, 2008 – The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences will induct luminaries **Bea Arthur, Larry Gelbart, Merv Griffin, Daniel B. Burke & Thomas Murphy** and **Sherwood Schwartz** into its Hall of Fame at an induction ceremony on Tuesday evening, December 9, at the Beverly Hills Hotel. They join more than 100 individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the television medium and have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since its inception in 1984 (www.emmys.tv/awards/halloffame.php).

“Desperate Housewives” James Denton will host the ceremony, with **former Hall of Fame Inductees Norman Lear and Angela Lansbury**, as well as **Florence Henderson, Robert Iger** and **Dawn Wells**, among the presenters.

Television Academy members and the industry at large submitted candidates to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for consideration. Members voting on this year’s inductees were Committee Chairman Mark Itkin, Fred Silverman, Brian Graden, Mike Darnell, Courtney Cox-Arquette and Anne Sweeney.

Following is background on each of this year's Hall of Fame inductees:

Bea Arthur, a two-time Emmy® Award- and Tony Award-winning comedienne, actress and singer. During a six-decade-long career, Arthur is perhaps best remembered as the outspoken feminist Maude Findlay in the classic 1970s sitcom, ***Maude***, in which she lived in affluent Westchester Country with her husband and divorced daughter. During its six-season run, the series tackled many controversial topics, including abortion. From 1985-92, she played another memorable role as Dorothy Zbornak, a divorced substitute teacher in the hit sitcom, ***The Golden Girls***. On stage, Arthur’s many roles have included Lucy Brown in the 1954 off-Broadway premiere of Kurt Weill’s ***Threepenny Opera***, Yente the Matchmaker in 1964’s ***Fiddler on the Roof*** and her 1966 Tony Award-winning portrayal of "Vera Charles" in ***Mame*** (she also appeared in the 1974 film version). In 2002, Arthur made a triumphant return to Broadway starring in ***Bea Arthur on Broadway: Just Between Friends***, a collection of stories and songs based on her life and long career. The show was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Event.

Larry Gelbart, a prolific comedy writer with more than 60 years of credits, began his career in the 1940s as a radio writer for Danny Thomas, then later Jack Paar and Bob Hope. In the 1950s, Gelbart turned his comedy writing talents to Sid Caesar and television, teaming with Neil Simon, Mel Brooks, Woody Allen and Carl Reiner. Later, he served as one of the primary forces behind the creation of the classic television series ***M*A*S*H***, writing and producing many episodes during its 1972-83 run. He also wrote the screenplays of ***Oh, God!*** and ***Blame it on Rio***, and in 1982 co-wrote the Oscar-nominated screenplay for ***Tootsie***. Gelbart's other Broadway credits include the musical ***City of Angels***, which received an Edgar Award in 1990, the Iran-Contra satire ***Mastergate*** and ***Sly Fox***. In 1997, Gelbart wrote a memoir called ***Laughing Matters: On Writing M*A*S*H, Tootsie, Oh, God!, and a Few Other Funny Things***. The recipient of more than a dozen awards, Gelbart has received three Primetime Emmy Awards, three Tony Awards and the Writers Guild of America’s 1981 Laurel Award for Outstanding Career Achievement in Television Writing. He is the recipient of two Peabody Awards and, since May 2005, Gelbart has been a contributing blogger at The Huffington Post.

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Merv Griffin served as an innovative television force for nearly half a century, hosting his syndicated talk show for 23 years and making history with the creation of the game shows that would become the two top-rated syndicated series of all time, *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy!* In 1962, Griffin discovered his talent for talk when he was tapped as guest host for Jack Paar on NBC's *Tonight* show. Subsequently, *The Merv Griffin Show*, which aired on CBS and later in syndication, had a great impact on American pop culture, showcasing new talent and serious discussions with controversial and iconic figures. When he received a Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 2005, the *New York Times* story was headlined, "If Chatting Were an Olympic Sport, Merv Griffin Would Be Draped in Medals." Founding Merv Griffin Entertainment in 1986 after the sale of his programs to Columbia (owned at the time by Coca-Cola), Griffin continued to create game shows, produce films and reality fare until his death on August 12, 2007. *Merv Griffin's Crosswords*, his most recent creation, has been on the air since September 10, 2007. Meanwhile, the iconic theme music he composed for *Jeopardy!* has so far generated \$70 million in royalties. During his career, Griffin earned 32 Emmy nominations and 17 Emmy Awards.

Thomas Murphy, chairman and former CEO of Capital Cities/ABC, is highly regarded in the business world for his acumen in the broadcast and publishing industries. Murphy built Capital Cities Communications into one of the country's leading media companies. In 1985, Murphy engineered the acquisition of ABC by CapCities for \$3.5 billion. He never forgot his roots in broadcasting, and he frequently spoke about the need to preserve broadcasting's "public trust" responsibilities. In 1990, Murphy stepped down as CEO, handing the responsibility to his longtime colleague, Dan Burke. Murphy remained Chairman of the Board, until he became Chairman and CEO again when Burke retired in February 1994. He retired as Chairman and CEO of Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. in 1996, when the merger of Capital Cities/ABC with The Walt Disney Company became effective.

Daniel B. Burke served as president of Capital Cities Communications for 18 years and CEO of Capital Cities/ABC from 1990, when he succeeded Chairman Thomas Murphy in the post, to his retirement in 1994. Burke, nicknamed "The Cardinal" because of his strict standards, served as second-in-command of CapCities starting in 1972. He oversaw day-to-day operations, while Murphy concentrated on strategy. As a top executive at ABC News, Burke was credited with strengthening the division's domestic and overseas bureaus, contributing to the success of *20/20* and *Nightline*, and taking part in the effort to successfully lure away David Brinkley from NBC and Diane Sawyer from CBS. Burke has spearheaded several philanthropic endeavors, including serving as a Director of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and as Chairman Emeritus of New York Presbyterian Hospital in the City of New York.

Sherwood Schwartz is a writer-producer who has been involved with more than 700 television shows, including two of the most enduring series, *Gilligan's Island* (1964-1967) and *The Brady Bunch* (1969-1974). In the 1990s, Schwartz was involved in producing *The Brady Bunch Movie and A Very Brady Sequel* (1996). He also co-wrote the memorable theme songs for *Gilligan's Island* and *The Brady Bunch*. In March 2008, Schwartz, still ebullient at 91, was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Full oral history interviews with Bea Arthur, Larry Gelbart, Tom Murphy and Sherwood Schwartz are available online through the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation's Archive of American Television. For links to the interviews, visit <http://tvinterviewsarchive.blogspot.com>.

Founded by former Television Academy president John H. Mitchell, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame has honored on-camera legends and pioneering directors, producers, costume designers, writers, animators, executives, reporters and documentarians/explorers. Past honorees include Lucille Ball, Johnny Carson, David Sarnoff, Walter Cronkite, Milton Berle, Walt Disney, Bob Hope, Mary Tyler Moore, Barbara Walters, Dinah Shore, Oprah Winfrey, Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Carl Reiner.

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