

**TERMINAL CITY: A BRAVE NEW CANADIAN ORIGINAL SERIES FROM THE MOVIE NETWORK AND MOVIE CENTRAL**

August 23, 2005

Premieres Monday, October 17 at 9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. PT

TORONTO, Aug. 23 /CNW/ - Astral Media's **The Movie Network** (Eastern Canada) and Corus Entertainment's **Movie Central** (Western Canada) present the national broadcast premiere of the provocative Canadian drama **Terminal City** on Monday, **October 17** on **The Movie Network** at **9 p.m. ET** and **8 p.m. PT** on **Movie Central**.

**Terminal City**, a darkly comedic exploration of a family living on the edge and in the shadow of cancer, stars **Maria Del Mar** (Blue Murder, Pentagon Papers), **Gil Bellows** (Shawshank Redemption, Ally McBeal) and **Paul Soles** (The Score, This Is The Law). Award-winning writer **Angus Fraser** (A Complicated Kindness, Kissed) created, wrote and executive produced the 10-part series.

"I think all civil wars start when we bring the day's joy and rage to the dinner table and that's when the dialogue begins. The only thing that trumps this cosmos is the ringing phone," says Angus Fraser, writer, series creator and executive producer of **Terminal City**. "In our household, you never picked up during dinnertime - unless you knew you had to take the call. Unless you knew it was your doctor. Unless you knew it was bad news. And that's how it happened one night. A ringing phone and everything changed."

Marrying two themes that dominate contemporary culture - breast cancer and reality television - the series begins as Katie Sampson (Maria Del Mar), a 43-year-old wife and mother of three, is diagnosed with breast cancer. While undergoing treatment she is approached to become the host of an ailing reality-driven, hospital-based medical series.

Through the camera lens of this series within a series, Katie battles her illness before a mesmerized television audience and her family - her loving husband Ari (Gil Bellows), her rebellious daughter, her pot-loving teenage son, her God and death obsessed seven-year-old, and a difficult father-in-law who survived Auschwitz. While the stakes are high, Katie's candour, wit and self-deprecating personality captures the hearts of TV viewers looking for something to believe in.

"Cancer, television and the Holocaust are disparate, unconventional and powerful themes that are explored in **Terminal City**," said Michelle Marion, Director, Canadian Independent Production, **The Movie Network**. "The scripts' boldness in embracing controversial subject matter in a naturalistic way is a hallmark of pay-television drama. With its nuanced performances, exceptional writing and high production values, **Terminal City** exemplifies the standard of dramatic programming being developed and produced by Canadian pay-television. Canadian audiences are in for a treat."

"The rich, cinematic quality of Terminal City is distinctive, and we believe that high-definition productions like this will become the benchmark of the pay-television experience," says Shelley Gillen, Head of Creative and Business Affairs, Movie Central. "This thought-provoking series provides viewers with that often elusive television concept: a balanced blend of emotional and intellectual depth. Terminal City stands head-to-head with the world's best programming, and is a shining example of pay-television's commitment to nurturing groundbreaking, truly Canadian original drama."

A co-production between Crescent Entertainment and Big Dog Productions, Terminal City was executive produced by Angus Fraser and Jayme Pfahl, and produced by Gordon Mark. Terminal City also stars **Jane McLean** (Intern Academy), **Katie Boland** (Salem Witch Trials), **Adam Butcher** (Saint Ralph) and **Nico McEown** (The Perfect Romance). Terminal City is the first Canadian original series from The Movie Network and Movie Central to be shot, delivered and broadcast in High Definition. The series was shot in Victoria, British Columbia. For more information on the series, please visit [www.terminalcity.tv](http://www.terminalcity.tv).

**The Movie Network** is an Astral Media network available in eastern Canada. With premiere access to blockbuster movies, critically-acclaimed HBO and Showtime series, and first-rate Canadian programming, this pay-television service presents Canadians with some of the best television entertainment available. The Movie Network service includes five 24-hour multiplex channels - M, MMore, MExcess, MFun! and MFest - which deliver diverse and entertaining programs in an uncut and commercial-free television environment. The Movie Network also offers The Movie Network HD, a dedicated high-definition channel providing hundreds of titles in HD; and The Movie Network OnDemand, a Subscription Video On Demand (SVOD) service, available in select areas across eastern Canada. As a major supporter of Canadian original programming, The Movie Network has contributed over \$250 million toward Canadian content since the launch of the channel in 1983. For more information, please visit [www.themovienetwork.ca](http://www.themovienetwork.ca).

**Astral Media** is one of Canada's leading media companies, active in specialty, pay and pay-per-view television, radio and outdoor advertising. Astral Media's solid and dynamic presence in the country's major markets rests on its commitment to offer a unique combination of high-quality, targeted media for all its audiences. [www.astralmedia.com](http://www.astralmedia.com).

**Movie Central** is a 24-hour-a-day, commercial-free premium pay-TV service available to Western Canadians. Exclusive multi-year output agreements with major Hollywood studios ensure that Movie Central is the preferred destination for box office titles. In addition to being the first window, Canadian home to the best of HBO and Showtime, through its investments, pre-buys and licence fees for Canadian feature films and original series, Movie Central is recognized as a major force in the Canadian independent film and television production industry. The launch of Movie Central EXPRESS in October 2002 and the launch of a 24/7 Movie Central High Definition service in December 2004, demonstrate that Movie Central remains committed to being first with innovations that enhance the viewing experience. Visit the Movie Central website at [www.moviecentral.ca](http://www.moviecentral.ca).

Movie Central is owned by Corus Entertainment, a Canadian-based media and entertainment company. Corus is a market leader in both specialty TV and Radio. Corus also owns Nelvana Limited, an internationally recognized producer and distributor of children's programming and products. The Company's other interests include music, television broadcasting and advertising services. A publicly traded company, Corus is listed on the Toronto (CJR.B) and New York (CJR) Exchanges. Corus' Web site can be found at [www.corusentertainment.com](http://www.corusentertainment.com).

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