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***Philadelphia Stories* Season 5 Premieres on WYBE**

Philadelphia, PA (May 30, 2006) -- The fifth season of *Philadelphia Stories* will debut on Wednesday, June 14 at 9pm. *Philadelphia Stories* is an hour long series of independent films celebrating Philadelphia's diversity.

A premiere screening of *Philadelphia Stories* will take place on June 5, 2006 at the Prince Music Theatre.

Supporting community diversity has been a longstanding goal of WYBE, which has provided more than 15 years of multicultural programming for audiences in the Philadelphia region. *Philadelphia Stories* is an original WYBE series. More than 250 films have been featured on *Philadelphia Stories* since its 2001 debut.

"*Philadelphia Stories* is an important television series, unlike any other in the region, if not the country, where we guarantee independent producers - - who win a funding award - - a broadcast slot on prime time. And to our audience, we offer a glimpse of Philadelphia they never see on the small screen," said Hébert Peck Jr., Producer of *Philadelphia Stories*.

This year, *Philadelphia Stories* will feature 32 innovative films and documentaries by talented film and video producers in the Philadelphia region.

WYBE awarded funds in three categories: (1) full funding for the creation of new work, (2) finishing funds to complete works in progress and (3) the acquisitions of completed works. The result is the creation of 14 original programs, featuring three hours of completely new films and videos by the region's best filmmakers.

Fully Funded Awards were given to: Anula Shetty, *Asians Misbehaving*; Zilan Munas, *At the Wall*; Louis Massiah, *Wrought Iron*; Richard Hoffman, *Friday's at the Farm*; Michael Kuetemeyer, *African Garden*; Elizabeth Fiend/Big Tea Party, *No Butts About It!*; Warren Bass, *Art of the Advocate*; and Erika Mijlin, *The View from Amber St.*

Finishing Fund Awards were awarded to Thomas Porett, *Harmonizing-singing from the Heart*; Karmel-Elana Maori Holmes, *Scene not Heard: Women in Philadelphia Hip Hop*; and Andrew Watson, *Philadelphia Changing*.

The following were acquired works: Mark Scalese, *Implosion*; Hyun Been Jo, *A Trip*; New Kensington Community Development Corporation and Scribe Video Center, *From the Dell to the El: A Neighborhood Evolving*; LeAnn Erickson, *Neighbor Ladies*; Yvette Smalls, *Hair Stories*; Aaron Blandon, *The Battle of Eshu and Iku*; Sonali Gulati, *Nalini by Day, Nancy by Night*; Lynn Denton, *Scumbling*; Lulu Miller, *Tales from the Past: Leroy Johnson*; Leonard Guercio, *Tiramisu*; Soon Hong, *Man in the Box*; Ned Hylton, *Portrait of a Dude*; Shelley Barry, *Whole- A Trinity of Being*; Anita Schillhorn van Veen, *Little Surabaya*; Amy Olk, *Consolation*; Michael O'Reilly, *Planet Greenfield-The Movie*; David Toll, *Rendezvous at Renaissance*; George McCollough, *All for the Taking*; Valerie Keller, *Stepping on Upworld*; Erica Vanstone, *The Third Candidate*; and Chelsea O'Rourke, *Portrait of Life in Progress*.

"This innovative television series highlights the works of many talented Philadelphia producers," said Peck. "Working with established film and video institutions in the Greater Philadelphia region, WYBE reached into the independent film community for help to facilitate the production of new works and acquiring finished projects."

Philadelphia Stories is made possible by the generous support of the William Penn Foundation and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.