



Program Alert – January 3, 2008

## **Get the Truth Behind the Byline When *Word Travels* Premieres January 30 on OLN**

While travelling to exotic locations and writing about enlightening experiences may sound like an adventurous occupation, the life of a travel writer is not always as glamorous as it seems. Premiering **Wed., Jan. 30 at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT** on OLN, *Word Travels* is a new original Canadian series that follows freelance journalist Robin Esrock and national travel columnist Julia Dimon as they battle deadlines, jetlag, culture shock – and each other – to file the best travel stories possible. Filmed in 12 countries across six continents, each half-hour episode of the 13-part series reveals the real story of professional travel journalism – the truth behind the byline.

**\*\*Media Note\*\* Download photos for *Word Travels* at [www.ctvmedia.ca/oln](http://www.ctvmedia.ca/oln).**

Join these two young writers as they travel the world while sleuthing stories, following leads and working to strict deadlines. And while Esrock and Dimon experience the incredible vistas of natural beauty found worldwide, it's often not the stunning visuals that make the story, but rather the drama behind the scenery. See how cancelled flights, antiquated Internet access, language barriers, strange local cuisines, homesickness and living out of a suitcase are just a few of the occupational hazards Esrock and Dimon face along the way. As they travel from Jordan to the Yukon, Esrock and Dimon discover the fascinating stories behind the people and places that colour their journey across the world. Edited with a music video edge and scored to some of the hottest indie music, this documentary series mirrors the very world it discovers: unpredictable, emotionally charged, breathtaking and full of surprises.

Highlights from the first episodes include:

### ***Word Travels*: “Bolivia – High on the Write Stuff”**

**Wed., Jan. 30 at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT**

Travel writers, like all journalists, have different beats. Enjoying the “people” side of a story, Dimon investigates indigenous female wrestling, while Esrock hits the mountains to bike down the world's most dangerous road. Getting online to file and pitch stories may be a challenge, so it helps to be blessed by Andean priests on Lake Titicaca.

### ***Word Travels*: “Ethiopia North – Agreeing to Disagree”**

**Wed., Feb. 6 at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT**

African stories fill up notebooks in minutes, but before Esrock and Dimon can explore the 12<sup>th</sup> century rock churches in Lalibela, they have to deal with social issues, mechanical faults and each other's ethical differences. Esrock tests his theory of the people chain – following unlikely leads to a remarkable story – while Dimon's shopping savvy is tested to the limits as she bargains for a goat in Africa's biggest outdoor market.

**Word Travels: “Venezuela – Slugging it Out in the Jungle”**

**Wed., Feb. 13 at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT**

In this episode, the journalists head deep into the Orinoco Delta for a lesson in jungle survival. While Esrock takes the plunge to swim with dolphins, abseil a canyon and catch a piranha dinner, Dimon goes where only few have been before in a hunt for the elusive moriche worm. For each, it's a journey full of surprises.

**Word Travels: “Jordan – Press Trip Cinderellas”**

**Wed., Feb. 20 at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT**

Jordan is a country of contrasts, and so are the personalities of these writers. Dimon lifts the veil to discover the hip bars and malls of modern Amman, while Esrock channels his inner Indiana Jones and gallops into the ancient city of Petra. With posh hotels and five-star feasts in the desert, both relish the luxury of a sponsored press trip.

**Word Travels** is executive produced by Heather Hawthorn-Doyle, head of Omni Lifestyle, a division of Omni Film Productions Limited. **Word Travels** is produced by Omni Film Productions Limited in association with OLN, and with the participation of the Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC and the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit.

OLN:

OLN captures the adventurous spirit and passion for the great outdoors. Rough and tough, bone-breaking action and danger, OLN is Canada's leader in outdoor programming with a focus on life beyond the comforts of home. OLN's cutting-edge western lifestyle, outdoor exploration, survival, strength and reality programming is second only to extensive coverage from the most physically gruelling events from around the world, including the *Tour de France*, *The Amazing Race* and *Dakar Rally*. Visit Canada's roughest, most rugged and entertaining network online at [www.tsn.ca/oln](http://www.tsn.ca/oln). CTV Inc. is the managing partner of OLN.

Omni Film Productions Limited:

Vancouver-based Omni Film Productions Limited ([www.omnifilm.com](http://www.omnifilm.com)) is a busy television production company with more than half a dozen projects in production and just as many in development with major broadcasters across North America. For 28 years, Omni Film has produced over 200 hours of award-winning documentaries, drama, comedy, factual and lifestyle series. Their success has been, in part, due to their ability to consistently produce a diverse slate of quality and entertaining programming. Together with subsidiaries Omni Post and Water Street Releasing, Omni is a vertically integrated television production, post-production and distribution entity. Some shows currently in production are *Shock Wave*, a two-hour documentary for CBC; *Robson Arms* (season three), the critically acclaimed dramatic comedy series for CTV; and *She's Crafty*, a hip, new design series for HGTV.

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