



Omni Film's New Dramatic Comedy Series *Robson Arms*, Debuts June 17th On CTV

--Winner of two 2005 Leo Awards

-- Viewers can win FREE rent/mortgage for one year on companion website

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Vancouver, BC (May 31, 2005) – Shot entirely in Vancouver, *Robson Arms* is Omni Film Productions' newest dramatic comedy series, co-produced with Creative Atlantic Communications, for CTV. This 13-part, half-hour series takes viewers behind the doors of a fictional apartment building in Vancouver's eclectic West End, Canada's most densely populated neighbourhood. *Robson Arms* debuts on CTV **Friday, June 17 at 10:00pm ET/PT** with the first two episodes airing back-to-back. Beginning with episode three, the *Robson Arms* regular CTV time-slot will be 10:30pm ET/PT. *Robson Arms* will also air **Thursdays at 10:30pm ET/PT** starting **June 23** on The Comedy Network (check local listings).

The series peeks into a different apartment each week, unlocking the door to an unlikely collection of characters living under one roof, yet occupying different worlds. Every tenant is unique, but their stories all strike a chord as they deal with the most basic of human needs, which prove to be fresh, inspired and comedic. One thing is sure, you will never view your neighbours in the same way again!

Episode by episode, *Robson Arms* showcases hot new Canadian writers and directors, and to complement their work, Omni Film and Creative Atlantic have cast several established Canadian stars who appear in multiple episodes. The celebrity cast includes **Margot Kidder** (*Superman, Crime and Punishment*), **Megan Follows** (*Anne of Green Gables, Law and Order*), **Mark McKinney** (*Kids in the Hall, Slings and Arrows*), **William B. Davis** (*The X-Files, 100 Days in the Jungle*), **Tobias Mehler** (*Taken, Young Blades*) and **Gabrielle Miller** (*Corner Gas*). They are joined by series regular **John Cassini** (*NYPD Blue, Seven*) who stars as the building Superintendent "Yuri". For his outstanding work in *Robson Arms*, **Cassini** was just awarded the **2005 Leo Award** for *Best Lead Performance by a Male in a Dramatic Series*.

The Leo Awards, recognizing excellence in British Columbia Film & Television, also honoured **Jesse McKeown**, who penned episode two, with *Best Screenwriting in a Dramatic Series*. "We are not only proud of the series as a whole, but also of the exceptionally creative team that was assembled for *Robson Arms*", says Producer **Brian Hamilton** of Vancouver-based Omni Film Productions. "Everyone from the entire cast and crew, along with the writers and directors, believed in *Robson Arms* from the beginning, and we can only hope the audience embraces it as much as we all have."

Robson Arms was jointly commissioned by CTV's Vancouver-based Western Independent Production Office and CTV's Halifax-based Atlantic Independent Production Office. "*Robson Arms* is unlike anything else on TV," said **Susanne Boyce** CTV's President of Programming and Chair of the Media Group. "It's a dramatic comedy series with a distinctive Canadian feel as a result of the subtle humour that weaves in and out of every episode."

Robson Arms is complemented by a sophisticated website, www.robsonarms.com, in which viewers can virtually step into the *Robson Arms* apartment building for the latest tenant information, sneak peeks and more. The website also features an exciting "Win Your Rent From Robson Arms" contest.

(more)

To kick off the series launch, visitors will have the opportunity to win a full year's rent/mortgage FREE from **Robson Arms** by emailing video postcards to as many people as possible and then answering contest questions relating to any of the first three episodes.

Additional Canadian talent appearing throughout the season includes **Jane McGregor** (*Flower & Garnet*), **Kevin McNulty** (*Last Wedding, Stealing Sinatra*), **Alisen Down** (*Tripping The Wire: A Stephen Tree Mystery, The Life*), **Zak Santiago** (*Stargate SG-1, Young Blades, The Five People You Meet in Heaven*), **Shirley Douglas** (*Wind at My Back, Shadow Lake*), **Gabrielle Rose** (*Milgaard, the Sweet Hereafter*), **David Richmond-Peck** (*Cold Squad, Jeremiah*), **Fred Ewanuick** (*Corner Gas, Delicate Art of Parking*), and **Will Sasso** (*MadTV*),

Robson Arms is Produced by **Brian Hamilton** (*Ancient Clues*) of Omni Film Productions, Co-Produced by **Janice Evans** (*Liocracy*) and **Greg Jones** (*Liocracy*) of Creative Atlantic and Executive Produced by **Michael Chechik** (*Edgemont*) and **Gary Harvey** (*Cold Squad*). The series was developed by **Susin Neilsen** (*Madison*), who is the series' Head Writer and Creative Producer. Harvey was the Lead Director supporting featured episodic Directors Michael Amo, Dwayne Beaver, Luke Carroll, Gordon Carson, James Dunnison, Jason Furukawa, James Genn, Mary Lewis, Asghar Massombagi, Michael Melski, Monika Mitchell and Benjamin Ratner. Featured Writers include Sioux Browning, Andrew Bush, Warren Jeffries, Leo Award winner Jesse McKeown, David Moses, Deb Peraya, Tony Sekulich and Karen Tulchinsky.

Robson Arms is a co-production between Vancouver-based Omni Film Productions and Halifax-based Creative Atlantic Communications in association with CTV, with the participation of the Canadian Television Fund, created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian cable industry, Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program, CTF: Licence Fee Program, the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit and the Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC, CanWest Western Independent Producers Fund, and the Nova Scotia Film Industry Tax Credit and is also produced with the participation of Rogers Telefund. **Robson Arms** and its companion DVD are supported by British Columbia Film and CTV's "First Shots" joint initiative.

Omni Film Productions Limited is one of Western Canada's longest established television and film production companies having recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2004. Over the years, Omni has produced over 175 hours of television dramas, documentaries, factual and lifestyle series and children's programming resulting in over 75 national and international awards. Omni's series include *Edgemont*, *The Odyssey*, *Champions of the Wild*, *Ancient Clues*, *Quiet Places*, *Healthy Home* and *Hi-Tech Culture*. Currently Omni Film is producing its second season of *Ancient Clues*, the mini-series *Dragon Boys*, a pilot titled *This Space for Rent*, and two documentary series *Rock Your World* and *Stuntdawgs*. In addition, Omni Film is pleased to announce another series for CTV and The Comedy Network titled *Alice I Think* which is currently in pre-production.

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