



MEDIA RELEASE

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**My Name is *Alice, I Think*
And I'm on The Comedy Network, Starting May 26**

-- New TV comedy brings internationally-acclaimed books by BC author Susan Juby to life --

"I blame my parents. I grew up in one of those loving families that fail to prepare a person for real life..." --*Excerpt from the video diary of Alice MacLeod, 15*

Smithers, British Columbia (April 24, 2006) – Meet the MacLeods: my new-age mom and practicing feminist, Diane; my loveable, but slacker father, John; my brainy and unusually mature 10-year-old brother, MacGregor; and me, Alice, 15-years-old and struggling to fit in at the local high school after years of home schooling. Together, we're television's newest on-screen family and the unconventional subjects of *Alice, I Think*, a new original comedy series from CTV and The Comedy Network premiering **Friday, May 26 at 8 p.m. ET/PT**, exclusively on The Comedy Network. I may be no Anne of Green Gables, but *Alice, I Think* is the first Canadian television program in a generation to be inspired by a series of successful Canadian novels, the internationally acclaimed books by British Columbia author Susan Juby.

**** Media Note **** Download photos of me at www.ctvmedia.ca/comedy

Direct from the heart of Smithers, British Columbia (Population 5,124), *Alice, I Think* revolves around the misadventures of my offbeat family as we encounter life's ups, downs and occasional absurdities. The 13-part, half hour scripted comedy series reunites the creative team behind last season's critically-acclaimed CTV/Comedy Network series *Robson Arms*: Executive Producers Susin Nielsen (who also created *Alice, I Think* for television) and Gary Harvey (who also acts as the lead director).

Brent Haynes, Director of Programming for The Comedy Network, says: "Since we got Susan Juby's books in our hot little paws we haven't been able to get Alice out of our heads. It's a lot of fun to watch Alice kick ass and get her ass kicked at the same time."

Fun? Is he serious?

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For more information, contact:

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So here's the story: Carly McKillip stars as me, a 15-year-old girl with a bizarre fashion sense that's painfully out of touch and with a take on the world that is uniquely my own. You could say I kind of stand out in my small town. I'm on the hunt for a look, a social life, a job and a boyfriend. Is that too much to ask?

To help me "sprout perceptively," as he likes to say, my therapist-in-training, Bob, lends me a video camera to chronicle my daily life. My mother Diane (Rebecca Northan, *The Joe Blow Show*), is the family breadwinner and works in a new-age used bookstore. My endearingly unproductive father John (Dan Payne, *Stargate: Atlantis*) stays at home, working intermittently as a romance novelist/candlemaker. And at the ripe old age of 10, my little brother MacGregor (Connor Price, *Cinderella Man*) is the brains of the outfit. When faced with a crisis – which happens often – we often look to young Mac for guidance.

Other residents of my "special" little town include: Finn (Haig Sutherland, *Robson Arms*), my dad's gay best friend, band mate and town gossip; Geraldine (Lori Triolo, *DaVinci's Inquest*), my mom's counter-culture best friend and a "natural woman"; Linda (Taylor Hill, *The New Beachcombers*), the 16-year old town psychopath who's made my life a living hell since First Grade; and Marcus (Michael Eklund, *Intelligence*), another one of my dad's friends and band mates who drives the only taxi in town and dates women half his age.

Filmed on location in Vancouver and Langley, British Columbia, *Alice, I Think* is based on the series of novels by Nanaimo writer Susan Juby. Originally published in 2000, *Alice, I Think* was one of the rare books loved by both teenagers and adults. *Books in Canada* raved that *Alice, I Think* was a "dead-on, laugh-out-loud female coming of age story" while *Canadian Literature* described it as "a great, funny, romp of a book... completely unlike any other novel in this genre." The book was critically acclaimed and was nominated for the Amazon.com/Books in Canada First Novel Award. Juby's follow-up novel, *Miss Smithers*, published in April 2004, won a BC Book Prize and was nominated for the 2005 Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. Last year, the final book in the series, *Alice MacLeod, Realist at Last* hit store shelves. All three books are published by HarperCollins in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

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Alice, I Think was created for television and developed by Susin Nielsen (*Robson Arms*), who is the series' Head Writer. The series is produced by Brian Hamilton (*Robson Arms*) and executive produced by Jon Slan (*Plague City: SARS in Toronto*), Gabriela Schonbach (*StuntDawgs*), Susin Nielsen (*Robson Arms*) and Gary Harvey (*Robson Arms*). Rachel Rafelman (*Plague City: SARS in Toronto*) co-produces. The lead director is Gary Harvey, the former producer of CTV's *Cold Squad* and lead director of CTV's *Robson Arms*. Louise Clark is CTV's Director, Western Independent Production. Michelle Daly is The Comedy Network's Development and Production Executive. Brent Haynes is Director of Programming for The Comedy Network. Bill Mustos is Senior Vice-President, Dramatic Programming for CTV. Ed Robinson is Senior-Vice President, Comedy and Variety Programming, CTV Inc. Susanne Boyce is President, CTV Programming and Chair of the CTV Media Group.

Alice, I Think is a co-production between Slanted Wheel Entertainment Inc. and Omni Film Productions Limited. *Alice, I Think* was developed and produced in association with CTV and The Comedy Network, 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: License Fee Program, the Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC, Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit and the Shaw Rocket Fund.

Since being founded in 2002 by Jon Slan, President, and Lorne Weil, non-executive chairman, Slanted Wheel Entertainment has concentrated on the acquisition and adaptation of literary works for the big and small screens. Since its inception, Slanted Wheel has already completed production on two movies for CTV: *Plague City: SARS in Toronto*, which aired in May of 2005, winning its time slot; and *A Friend of the Family*, which will air later this year. The company also has many other movies for television, series and feature films in various stages of development.

Omni Film Productions Limited is one of Canada's most respected television 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 the recent critically acclaimed *Robson Arms* (for CTV and The Comedy Network), *Edgemont*, *The Odyssey*, *Champions of the Wild*, *Ancient Clues*, *Quiet Places*, *Healthy Home* and *Hi-Tech Culture*. Currently Omni Film is producing a documentary for CTV about Terry Fox's legacy, the mini-series *Dragon Boys*, a pilot titled *This Space for Rent*, and two documentary series: *Make Some Noise* and *StuntDawgs*.

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Visit the *Alice, I Think* Web site at www.thecomedynetwork.ca.

All comedy, of all kinds, 24-hours-a-day, is the mandate of The Comedy Network, Canada's first-and-only specialty comedy service. Launched in October 1997, The Comedy Network offers an unrivalled slate of original Canadian productions, with 44 per cent of its revenues being reinvested in Canadian programming. To more than 4.8 million subscribers, The Comedy Network broadcasts, uncut and uncensored, an eclectic mix of stand-up, sketch, improv, and animated comedy as well as topical comedy talk shows, game shows and classic situation comedies. The Comedy Network is a division of CTV Television. Visit The Comedy Network's Web site at www.thecomedynetwork.ca.

CTV, Canada's largest private broadcaster, offers a wide range of quality news, sports, information, and entertainment programming. It has the number-one national newscast, *CTV National News With Lloyd Robertson*, and is the number-one choice for prime-time viewing. CTV owns 21 conventional television stations across Canada and has interests in 14 specialty channels, including the number-one Canadian specialty channel, TSN. CTV is owned by Bell Globemedia, Canada's premier multi-media company. More information about CTV may be found on the company Web site at www.ctv.ca.

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