



Program
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For Immediate Release

Newest CTV Drama Series Underway as Production Begins on Vancouver-based *Robson Arms*

-- Celebrity cast signings include: Margot Kidder, Megan Follows, William B. Davis, Mark McKinney, Gabrielle Miller and Tobias Mehler as new 13-part series showcases Canada's hottest new writers and directors --

Toronto, Ontario (March 1, 2004) – Production begins today in Vancouver on *Robson Arms*, CTV's newest original drama series, produced by Omni Film Productions and co-produced by Creative Atlantic Communications. The 13-part, half-hour series will take viewers behind 13 doors inside a fictional apartment complex in Vancouver's West End; the most densely populated neighbourhood in Canada. The series shoots through May 17. A broadcast date on CTV has not yet been determined.

With today's announcement, *Robson Arms* joins CTV's award-winning line-up of original dramatic series, bringing to six the total number of original scripted Canadian series for CTV. *Robson Arms* joins *The Eleventh Hour* (Gemini Award winner for Best Series), teen crush *Degrassi: The Next Generation* (Canada's Most Watched Series Amongst Adults 18-49), comedic drama *Corner Gas* (the most-watched Canadian series of the new television season), *Sue Thomas F.B. Eye* (Canada's most watched original drama series, all viewers) and the final season of the award-winning *Cold Squad*.

Robson Arms was developed cooperatively between CTV's Vancouver-based Western Independent Production Office and CTV's Halifax-based Atlantic Independent Production Office. Episode by episode, the unique initiative allows the series to showcase several hot new Canadian writers and directors. In the same manner, producers have cast several established Canadian stars who appear in multiple episodes. Celebrity cast signings to date include **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*) and **Gabrielle Miller** (*Corner Gas*). They will be joined by series regular **John Cassini** (*NYPD Blue, Seven*) who stars as the building Superintendent "Yuri".

It's another Canadian success story for CTV's Western Development Offices and the Vancouver production community as a whole. Along with funding support from the East, *Robson Arms* is a true East meets West success story for CTV," said Susanne Boyce CTV's President of Programming and Chair of the Media Group.

"With a mandate to showcase Canada's hottest new writers and directors, today's start of production underscores CTV's commitment to original drama and our television industry as a whole, added Bill Mustos, CTV Senior Vice President, Dramatic Programming."

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“The door is open – go ahead, give it a push.” invites Producer Brian Hamilton. “What you see inside will move you, entertain you, make you laugh, and make you cry.”

Step into the “Robson Arms”, a once-grand low-rise apartment building in Vancouver’s crowded and eclectic West End. It’s home to an unlikely collection of characters who live under one roof, yet occupy different worlds. Take a voyeur-like look into a different apartment each week, as each half-hour episode introduces a new story and characters, while providing intriguing glimpses of characters from past and future episodes. Every tenant is different, but their stories all strike a chord as they deal with the most basic of human needs: the desire to connect. Fresh, inspired and comedic, **Robson Arms** has drawn some of Canada’s most exciting acting talent to the small screen.

Robson Arms features John Cassini as “Yuri Kukoc”, the building’s appealing but slightly sleazy Superintendent. As the Super, Yuri holds the keys to every apartment in the building, and knows the comings and goings of all the tenants. Joining Cassini in the premiere episode is guest star Megan Follows as “Janice Keneally” (Apt. 114), the recently separated mom of “Henry” (Perry Finnbogason), who finds herself facing a dilemma of the romantic kind with her new neighbour Tom Goldblum – played by former *Kid in the Hall* Mark McKinney. Tom (Apt. 214), a widowed immigration lawyer, returns in a future episode to advise Dr. Wainwright on the legalities of love. Dr. Wainwright (Apt. 108) is played by William B Davis. In another episode, the doctor’s wife Elaine Wainwright, played by Margot Kidder rediscovers her powers of attraction for a whole new generation. Meanwhile, down the hall in apartment 116, the new generation’s honeymoon is over. Bobbi and Bobby played by Gabrielle Miller and Tobias Mehler may be flirting with disaster when Yuri comes to call. Stay tuned - you will never see your neighbours in the same way again.

Additional guest stars appearing throughout the season include Gabrielle Rose (*Milgaard, The Sweet Hereafter*) Kevin McNulty (*Last Wedding, Stealing Sinatra*), Alisen Down (*Mysterious Ways*) and Zak Santiago (*Stargate SG-1*).

Robson Arms was developed by Susin Nielsen (*Madison*), who is the series’ head Writer and Creative Producer. The Executive Producer and lead Director is Gary Harvey, the former Producer for CTV’s *Cold Squad*. Featured episodic directors include 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 Jefferies, Jesse McKeown, David Moses, Deb Peraya, Tony Sekulich and Karen Tulchinsky. **Robson Arms** is Produced by Brian Hamilton (*Ancient Clues*), co-produced by Janice Evans and Greg Jones and Executive Produced by Michael Chechik.

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, CTF: Licence Fee Program, Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program, CanWest Western Independent Producers Fund, the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit and the Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC, 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 joint initiative "First Shots".

CTV, Canada's largest private broadcaster, offers a wide range of quality news, sports, information, and entertainment programming. It boasts the number-one national newscast, *CTV 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.