



Production Begins on Second Season of CTV and The Comedy Network's Original Comedy Series *Robson Arms*

-- Celebrity neighbours move in for Season 2 of Audience and Critical Favourite --

Toronto, Ontario (April 11, 2006) – Leslie Nielsen, Linda Kash and Peter DeLuise are moving into *Robson Arms*, joining an unlikely collection of neighbours who live under one roof, yet occupy different worlds. They play the first of many new and intriguing characters coming to *Robson Arms* for its second season. CTV, The Comedy Network and Omni Film Productions Limited announced today that principal photography has begun for Season Two of the critically-acclaimed original comedy. The 13-part, half-hour series follows the lives of tenants inside a fictional low-rise in Vancouver's eclectic West End - the most-densely populated neighbourhood in Canada. *Robson Arms* shoots through June 27 in Vancouver, BC. A broadcast date is not yet available.

**** Media Note **** Download photos from *Robson Arms* at www.ctvmedia.ca.

Robson Arms debuted to critical acclaim when it premiered in June, 2005 on CTV. "The series is simply delicious," said *The Globe and Mail*. "Never self conscious or pretentious, *Robson Arms* is a real find," said *National Post*. And the *Winnipeg Free Press* called it "a brilliantly executed half-hour of television." During its initial run, a strong youth audience made *Robson Arms* the Number One program in its timeslot each week for Adults 18-34 (BBM).

Robson Arms is one of seven scripted series on CTV's original programming slate for 2005-2006, including *Corner Gas*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, *Whistler*, *Instant Star*, *Jeff Ltd* and *Alice, I Think*. The series joins *Whistler* and *Alice, I Think* as one of three CTV programs shot and produced in British Columbia and developed by CTV's Western Independent Production office.

Season 2 of *Robson Arms* builds on the success of a casting formula that boasts an impressive and diverse collection of Canadian talent, including John Cassini (*Intelligence*, *Final Days on Planet Earth*) who returns as Yuri Kukoc, the appealing but sleazy superintendent of *Robson Arms*. But like any apartment building, there are always new tenants moving in.

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Celebrity newcomers this season include legendary Canadian comedic actor Leslie Nielsen (*Scary Movie 4*, *The Naked Gun*) as Caldo Vasco, a bitter old fart who uses his wheelchair as a weapon; Linda Kash (*Cinderella Man*, *Best In Show*) as Carol Goldstein, a new tenant who acts like she is 45 going on 25; and Peter DeLuise (*Stargate SG-1*, *21 Jump Street*) as Wayne, a compulsive liar.

In addition to Cassini, returning cast members include Fred Ewanuick (*Corner Gas*, *Just Friends*) as Nick; Alisen Down (*The Life*, *Mysterious Ways*) as Sault; Zak Santiago (*Young Blades*, *Intelligence*) as Hal; Tobias Mehler (*Young Blades*, *Captive Hearts*) as Bobby; Gabrielle Miller (*Corner Gas*, *One Dead Indian*) as Bobbi and Haig Sutherland (*Slither*, *The Colt*) as Fred.

Robson Arms is about community: people sharing a space and a place. It's an apartment building that is home to an eccentric collection of characters, each consumed by the day-to-day minutiae of life. Some tenants find love and lust, others dig themselves deep into a rut, and meanwhile their stories inadvertently touch each other in unexpected ways.

Season 2 of **Robson Arms** picks up with a "For Sale" sign outside of the apartment building following an earthquake and the death of the building's owners at the end of the first season. Also this season: Yuri finds himself with a new and much younger boss (AJ MacKenzie, a stand-up comedian in his first TV role); trying to rekindle her relationship with Nick, Sault mistakes stalking for romance; Hal vows to quit hitting the bong; Bobby's co-worker Sasha (April Telek, *Flight 93*, *The Immortal*) extends the distance between him and his pregnant wife Bobbi; and blissful couple and new tenants Andrew (Gabriel Hogan, *Canada Russia 72*, *The Associates*) and Chris (Laura Bertram, *Andromeda*, *Ready or Not*) have their own challenges as Andrew discovers his new closet isn't big enough.

"This year, the audience can expect even stronger writing, maintaining **Robson Arms'** unique blend of humour and poignancy that made the first season a hit", says series co-creator Susin Nielsen. Co-creator Gary Harvey adds: "We are so fortunate to welcome back our strong ensemble cast, and open the door to an exciting new group of actors who will bring with them new surprises each and every week."

Series co-creators and executive producers Susin Nielsen and Gary Harvey return to helm the second season of **Robson Arms** along with producer/executive producer Brian Hamilton. Louise Clark is CTV's Director, Western Independent Production. 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.

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Robson Arms is produced by Omni Film Productions Limited in association with The Comedy Network and CTV, with the participation of the Canadian Television Fund, created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian cable industry, CTF: License Fee Program, Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program, the Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC and the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit. **Robson Arms** is supported by British Columbia Film and CTV's joint initiative "First Shots", and was developed in association with The Comedy Network and CTV with the participation of Telefilm and British Columbia Film.

Omni Film Productions Limited is one of Canada's most respected television production companies, having 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 **Robson Arms**, and *Alice, I Think* (both for CTV and The Comedy Network), *This Space for Rent*, *Edgemont*, *StuntDawgs*, *Make Some Noise*, *The Odyssey*, *Champions of the Wild*, *Ancient Clues*, *Quiet Places*, *Healthy Home*, *Hi-Tech Culture* and the upcoming mini-series *Dragon Boys*.

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.

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 website at thecomedynetwork.ca.

Visit the **Robson Arms** Web site at www.robsonarms.com.