

BLACKSTONE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO GEMINIS FOR BLACKSTONE *Original Dramatic Television Series Celebrates Wins; Announces US Distributor*

Edmonton, Alberta (September 8, 2011) -- **Prairie Dog Film + Television** is pleased to announce that ***Blackstone*** won Gemini Awards in the following categories:

Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role

Michelle Thrush

Best Achievement in Main Title Design

Robb Thompson, Darren Bierman, Shelley Cornies, Steve Seeley

“It’s an absolute honour for *Blackstone* to be recognized at this year’s Gemini Awards,” says **Ron E. Scott**, who is executive producer, writer and director of *Blackstone*. “We’re very proud of Carmen and Michelle, who were both up for Best Actress, and who each bring so much to their respective roles. They’re part of an amazing cast who work so hard to bring *Blackstone* to life, and we’re extremely grateful for their talent and generosity.”

The second season of *Blackstone* is currently being shot in Edmonton, with production underway until mid-September. Returning for season two is the talented ensemble cast of **Carmen Moore, Eric Schweig, Michelle Thrush, Nathaniel Arcand, Roseanne Supernault, Steven Cree Molison, Andrea Menard, Justin Rain** and **Ashley Callingbull**. New cast members in season two are acclaimed First Nation’s actors **Gary Farmer, Tantoo Cardinal** and **Georgina Lightning**, as well as **Cameron Bancroft, Frank Cassini, Vincent Gale** and **Lori Triolo**.

Prior to the Gemini Awards, *Blackstone* won three awards at the Rosies in Alberta and two awards at the Leos in B.C.

US DISTRIBUTION FOR BLACKSTONE

PPI Releasing in Venice, California, has signed *Blackstone* to a distribution deal in the US, and will soon be introducing the first season to television viewers south of the border. The first season has also been showing in New Zealand on Maori Television, giving *Blackstone* its first international audience.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Blackstone is produced by Edmonton’s Prairie Dog Film + Television, with **Ron E. Scott** as executive producer, writer and director, **Jesse Szymanski** as producer, **Damon Vignale** as producer and writer, and **Gil Cardinal** as writer. The series is produced in association with Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, with the assistance of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Media Fund, with the participation of the Canada Media Fund and with the assistance of The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit.

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ABOUT PRAIRIE DOG FILM + TELEVISION

Founded in 1993 by Metis Executive Producer, Director and Writer **Ron E. Scott**, Prairie Dog Film + Television is an independent film and television production company with a proven track record in international television series, prime time television specials, feature films, and major live audience productions. www.prairiedog.ca

ABOUT PPI RELEASING

PPI Releasing, LLC is a television and new media distribution company led by industry veterans **Ritch Colbert**, **Josh Raphaelson** and **David Hutchinson**. PPI Releasing brands feature innovative programming and high production values, developed in partnership with advertisers, broadcasters and online networks. www.ppi.tv

ABOUT APTN

September 1, 2010 marked the 11-year anniversary of the launch of the first national Aboriginal television network in the world with programming by, for and about Aboriginal Peoples to share with all Canadians and viewers around the world. APTN is available in approximately 10 million Canadian households and commercial establishments with cable, direct-to-home satellite (DTH), telco-delivered and fixed wireless television service providers. The network launched its high definition channel APTNHD in the spring of 2008. APTN does not receive government funding for operations but generates revenue through subscriber fees, advertising sales and strategic partnerships. APTN broadcasts programming with 56% offered in English, 16% in French and 28% in Aboriginal languages. For program schedule or for more information, please contact APTN at (204) 947-9331 or toll-free at 1-888-278-8862, or visit the website at www.aptn.ca.

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