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BUFFALO GAL PICTURES, A MINDS EYE ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY SWEEPS MANITOBA'S BLIZZARD AWARDS

Teen series 2030CE and television movies Society's Child and The Notorious Mrs. Armstrong take home seven awards

March 5, 2003 – (Regina, SK) Minds Eye Entertainment (formerly Minds Eye Pictures), is pleased to announce that Buffalo Gal Pictures, a Minds Eye Entertainment Company and its production partners were honoured with seven awards at the Manitoba's Motion Picture Industry Association's Blizzard Awards last night.

A co-production of Buffalo Gal Pictures, **Minds Eye Entertainment**, Yan Moore Productions and Angela Bruce Productions, **2030CE** earned the award for *Best Children's Program* and *Best Performance by a Leading Actress* (*Tatiana Maslany*). Hailed as "perfect for its audience" by the Toronto Star and "compelling ...imaginative..." by Globe Television, **2030CE** is a futuristic teen series that follows a group of teen antiheroes living in a brave new world recovering from economic, environmental and social collapse where no one lives past the age of thirty. **2030CE** is produced by Yan Moore, Phyllis Laing, Shawn Watson, Rhonda Baker and is executive produced by Kevin DeWalt and Angela Bruce. The series currently broadcasts on **Thursdays at 8:30pm ET on YTV**.

A co-production of Buffalo Gal Pictures and Sienna Films, *Society's Child* earned the award for *Best Drama (Budget Over \$1 Million)* and the Jury Award for *Outstanding Performance (Kyley Strathem)*. Inspired by a true story, the television movie recounts the experiences of an exceptional child and her mother's unrelenting determination to ensure her daughter retains control over her own life in spite of her battle with Rett's Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder. *Society's Child* was produced by Jennifer Kawaja, Sharon McGowan, Phyllis Laing, Julia Sereny and Dennis Foon. The movie broadcast on **CBC** and **Lifetime** in 2002.

A co-production of Journey Films and Buffalo Gal Pictures, *The Notorious Mrs. Armstrong* earned the awards for *Best Direction (Non-Dramatic)*, *Best Script (Non-Dramatic)* and *Best Editing (Non-Dramatic)* is a documentary that explores the remarkable life of Helen Armstrong, a pioneering Winnipeg activist of the early twentieth century who is credited with leading women during one of the most significant events in Canadian history, the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. The film was produced by Paula Kelly and Liz Jarvis.

Minds Eye Entertainment (formerly Minds Eye Pictures) is a fully integrated production, post-production and distribution entity with offices across Canada. As Western Canada's largest independent film and television production company, Minds Eye Entertainment is currently in production with the feature film Whitecoats with Dave Thomas, Falling Angels with Miranda Richardson and season one of the legal drama Just Cause (W Network, PAX TV). The Company recently completed the television movie Betrayed (CBC), season two of 2030CE (YTV, Showtime Family), season four of Mentors (Family Channel), and season two of Prairie Berry Pie (APTN). The Company website is www.mindseyepictures.com.

Based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, **Buffalo Gal Pictures** is a vibrant and innovative production company which develops and produces original film and television programming for the domestic and international marketplace. The Company is a part of the **Minds Eye Entertainment** Group of Companies. Buffalo Gal Pictures is currently in production with Guy Maddin's feature film The Saddest Music in the World with Isabella Rossellini and Seven Times Lucky with Kevin Pollack and Liane Balaban.

2030CE is produced with the financial participation of Canadian Television Fund: Licence Fee Program, Canadian Television Fund: Equity Investment Program, YTV, Government of Manitoba - Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit, Minds Eye International, Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit Program, Shaw Children's Programming Initiative through the Shaw Television Broadcast Fund, Manitoba Film & Sound, CanWest Western Independent Producers Fund, Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit Program and the Independent Production Fund.

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Society's Child is produced with the financial participation of the Canadian Television Fund: Licence Fee Program, Manitoba Film and Sound, Government of Manitoba - Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit, Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit Program, CBC Television, Telefilm Canada, Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit, Showcase Television and Oasis.

Hosted by the **Manitoba Motion Picture Industries Association** (MMPIA), the **Blizzard Awards** recognizes and celebrates the best in Manitoba's film and television industry. MMPIA was established in 1987 as a non-profit, membership-driven association that represents the interests of Manitoba's motion picture industry, production companies and professionals. Collectively, the members of MMPIA work to create opportunities for the production, promotion and appreciation of Manitoba's dynamic film and video community.

Contact:

Kerry Fraser
Manager of Publicity
Minds Eye Entertainment
Tel: (306) 790-2727
kfraser@mindseyepictures.com