

HBO Tops 58th Creative Arts Emmys, ABC Leads Nets
Show Airs August 26 on E!

Los Angeles, Aug. 19, 2006—In a repeat of last year's standings, HBO topped the list of winners at the 58th Annual Creative Arts Emmy Awards with 17 golden statuettes, and among broadcast networks, ABC led the field with 10.

The ceremony, which was held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles and will air as a two-hour special on Saturday, August 26, on E! Entertainment Television, was hosted by the humorous illusionists Penn & Teller, whose Showtime series, *Penn & Teller: Bullshit*, received three Emmy nominations this year.

Presenters included more than two dozen renowned television actors, some of them nominees. They included Julie Bowen (*Boston Legal*), Tim Busfield (*Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*), Sarah Chalke (*Scrubs*), Patricia Clarkson (*Six Feet Under*), Stephen Collins (*7th Heaven*), Jon Cryer (*Two and a Half Men*), James Denton (*Desperate Housewives*), Jennifer Garner (*Alias*), Neil Patrick Harris (*How I Met Your Mother*), Mark Harmon (*NCIS*), Kathryn Joosten (*Desperate Housewives*), Jane Kaczmarek (*Malcolm in the Middle*), Melina Kanakaredes (*CSI: NY*), Tom Kenny (*SpongeBob Squarepants*), Paula Malcomson (*Deadwood*), John C. McGinley (*Scrubs*), Cesar Millan (*The Dog Whisperer*), Mary Lynn Rajsakub (*24*), Christina Ricci (*Grey's Anatomy*), Aisha Tyler (*Ghost Whisperer*), Isaiah Washington (*Grey's Anatomy*), Robin Weigert (*Deadwood*), Kevin Weisman (*Alias*), Bradley Whitford (*The West Wing*), Mark Valley (*Boston Legal*) and Chandra Wilson (*Grey's Anatomy*).

The Creative Arts Emmy Awards are dedicated primarily to the many essential crafts and technical disciplines involved in television production—including picture editing, sound editing, sound mixing, special visual effects, cinematography, art direction, music, stunts and more. Awards are also handed out for animation, variety series, reality series and four acting categories. Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series went to Patricia Clarkson for *Six Feet Under*; Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series went to Cloris Leachman for *Malcolm in the Middle*; Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series went to Christian Clemenson for *Boston Legal*; and Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series went to Leslie Jordan for *Will & Grace*.

The prestigious Governors Award, which is given to individuals or organizations committed to important social causes, went to mtvU, MTV's 24-hour college network, for the outlet's Sudan Campaign—which for the past two years has been informing and empowering college students to help stop the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The Outstanding Children's Program resulted in a tie, with awards going to both the Disney Channel movie *High School Musical* (which also won the award for Outstanding Choreography) and the HBO production *I Have Tourette's But Tourette's Doesn't Have Me*. The Discovery Channel's *Before the Dinosaurs* was named Outstanding Animated Program (For Programming One Hour or More) and Fox's long-running comedy *The Simpsons* was recognized for Outstanding Animated Program (For Programming Less

Than One Hour). Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Special went to *The XX Olympic Winter Games – Opening Ceremony*, which aired on NBC, and for the second consecutive year, ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* was named Outstanding Reality Program.

Leading the recipients of multiple awards were three HBO productions: *Elizabeth I*, which topped with five, followed by *Baghdad ER* and *Rome* with four each. ABC's *The 78th Annual Academy Awards* took top honors in three categories, and fourteen others garnered two each.

Perhaps the most amusing and heartfelt moments of the evening were provided by Cloris Leachman and Leslie Jordan, winners for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series and Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series, respectively.

Leachman's Emmy, her eighth, made her the winningest female performer in Emmy history. Previously, she had been tied with Mary Tyler Moore and Tracey Ullman (although afterward, in the press room, Leachman correctly pointed that not all of Ullman's Emmys are for performing). Leachman, who won in this same category—and for the same role—in 2002, could extend her career-high among female performers next week at the Primetime Emmys, where she will vie for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Movie or Miniseries for her performance in the HBO movie *Mrs. Harris*.

Accepting her award from the stage, Leachman, who clearly loves her job, quipped, after watching clips of the various nominated performances from her seat, “This is a bittersweet experience because I'm seeing all the roles I didn't get to play. I don't understand it.”

Later, speaking to journalists in the press room, Leachman, whose other Emmys include two for her work on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, commented on her longevity, “I'm 80. If your heart doesn't stop beating and you stay up with it, look what happens.”

Before leaving the press area, the hardworking actress—who said she recently completed the Sci Fi Channel movie *Lake Placid 2* in Bulgaria (a job she said she got because Betty White does not like to travel abroad)—she added one last wisecrack: “Next year I want to be in *High School Musical* or *Dancing with the Stars*—I want to do one-step. That's going to be my category.”

The ebullient Jordan, meanwhile, drew his own share of laughs when he accepted his award with the comment, “I loved doing *Will & Grace*. They trotted me out like an aging show pony.” He then shifted gears to combine humor with emotion when he continued, “Years ago I learned there are two ways to fight homophobia. One is through humor—I learned that in dodgeball in junior high, when I had to tap-dance to keep from getting creamed. The other is to put a face on it,” which, he added, is what *Will & Grace* did so effectively.

Later, speaking to journalists backstage, he reflected on his Hollywood career: “In 1982, I stepped off the bus at Vine Street and DeLongpre with big dreams and \$1,200 sewn into my underpants. Twenty-four years later, look where I am!”

In an interesting coincidence, three presenters bestowed awards on winners whose work was done on the presenters’ own series. Chandra Wilson and Isaiah Washington gave the award for Outstanding Casting for a Drama Series to Linda Lowy and John Brace, the casting directors for their show, ABC’s *Grey’s Anatomy*. Jon Cryer handed the statuette for Outstanding Multi-Camera Picture Editing for a Series to Joe Bella, editor for Cryer’s CBS sitcom, *Two and a Half Men*. And Neil Patrick Harris honored director of photography Christian La Fountaine with the award for Outstanding Cinematography for a Multi-Camera Series for Harris’ CBS series, *How I Met Your Mother*.

Rounding out the winners after HBO and ABC were NBC with eight awards; CBS, Fox and PBS with seven; Cartoon Network with four; the History Channel with Three; Disney and TNT with two each; and A&E, Discovery Channel, FX, Nickelodeon, Sc Fi Channel, Showtime, Turner Classic Movies and The WB with one each.