



**ARTS**  
& performance

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Inaugural Arts Congress Heads to Canada's Capital**

(Banff, Alberta, Canada, September 16, 2003) **Ottawa**, Canada's capital city, will welcome delegates from around the world this November as it plays host to the first-ever World Congress of Arts Producers & Performance at the National Arts Centre. Producers, broadcasters, content creators and arts professionals will take part in this three-day forum which highlights and celebrates the important role television plays in the presentation and creation of all facets of arts and performance programming. The patron for this event is Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada.

Executive producer of ARTS & Performance, Kerry Stauffer said she is excited the event will be held in Canada's capital. "Ottawa is a city rich in arts and culture – from its galleries and art venues to its festivals and performances. It is a fantastic location to host this inaugural event and we are pleased to be able to showcase the city of Ottawa to delegates from around the world."

Ottawa's **National Arts Centre** will be the main venue for the Congress hosting daily plenary sessions, keynote seminars, workshops, screenings, the Opening Reception and Closing Lunch. Evening events will include dinner at the **Museum of Civilization** and a reception at the **National Gallery**.

ARTS & Performance is also pleased to include the opportunity for delegates to attend the November 7<sup>th</sup> performance of **Sandra Shamas' comedy show *Wit's End II: heart's desire***, as well as the **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala** on Saturday, November 8, both at the National Arts Centre. A selected number of tickets have been made available for Congress attendees to purchase.

The World Congress of Arts Producers & Performance takes place November 5 to 8, 2003. Major funders of this event are the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Host broadcasters are the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Radio-Canada in association with ARTV. ARTS & Performance will address key issues – "TV as Art" and "Arts on TV", explore creative and business opportunities, investigate areas of funding and new formats, examine future trends, and celebrate excellence in programming. For information and to register, go to [www.banffmedia.com](http://www.banffmedia.com). Early Bird Registration Rate is available until September 26, 2003.

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