

HUMANITAS

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE STORY AT A TIME

Twentieth Century Fox Television, CBS Studios, Fox 21 and ABC Studios Order First Four Pilot Scripts to be Developed under HUMANITAS' Groundbreaking New Voices Initiative

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (March 30, 2011) – Marking the first four development deals to move forward under its pioneering New Voices initiative, HUMANITAS announced today that Twentieth Century Fox Television, CBS Studios, Fox 21 and ABC Studios have each ordered a new pilot script to be written by an emerging writer under the supervision of a HUMANITAS Trustee or Board Member.

Twentieth Century Fox ordered a pilot script for “Mambo Palace,” a single-camera sitcom by Luisa Leschin with “Everybody Hates Chris” creator **Ali LeRoi** supervising. The series is centered around a quirky neighborhood dance studio run by larger-than-life ballroom aces Ray and Lillian Del Mar and the couple’s young adult children. The show features dance numbers in a variety of styles including hip hop, Latin, ballroom and jazz. Former dancer Leschin’s previous writing credits include episodes of “Everybody Hates Chris” and “George Lopez.”

“Luisa has created a wonderful, original idea with rich characters and a unique situation that is fertile ground for both drama and comedy,” said Leroi. “The New Voices initiative played a pivotal role in bringing this idea to the studio and creating an environment in which we can collaborate on a great pilot script.”

CBS Studios ordered a script of writer Neil Cohen’s single-camera sitcom “Judge School,” which is being supervised by five-time HUMANITAS Prize winner **Gary David Goldberg** (“Family Ties,” “Spin City”). The show is set in a tiny upstate New York hamlet where newly elected Town Judge Carly Vanderwitt gets more than she bargained for as she tries to sort out the quarrelsome townfolks’ conflicting agendas and longstanding feuds while negotiating her own family issues. Cohen’s screenwriting credits include the feature film “The Disappearance of Garcia Lorca” and the upcoming “You Look Nice Today.”

“Neil is a talented writer who came up with a very fresh, funny series concept and I look forward to providing a guiding hand as he fleshes out the pilot,” said Goldberg. “New Voices provides a much-needed avenue for promising TV writers with compelling pitches to get a foot in the door at the studios and networks.”

Fox 21 has ordered a pilot script for the one-hour drama “Majestic” from Will Pascoe with “Bones” creator **Hart Hanson** supervising. The story, set during the Golden Age of Hollywood, centers on estranged brothers and long-time rivals Benjamin and Sam Lawton, who are forced into an uneasy alliance after their father dies, leaving them in charge of the movie studio he founded. Pascoe’s recent TV writing credits include “Deglassi: The Next Generation,” “Sci-Q,” “Breakout” and “Majority Rules.”

“New Voices provides a fantastic opportunity for new writers breaking into television,” said Hanson. “Will Pascoe is a very talented writer and HUMANITAS is a powerful game-changer for someone just starting out.”

ABC Studios ordered a script for Christian Trokey’s one-hour drama “Map, Myth, Bone,” with Trustee **Marc Guggenheim** (“No Ordinary Family,” “FlashForward”) supervising. The show centers on a recent high-school grad who must uncover a long sought-after treasure in order to save his amateur archaeologist father’s life. Trokey’s previous credits include freelancing for CBS’ “The Guardian,” serving as story editor on “Prison Break” and executive producing the web series “Den of Thieves” for 60frames.

“The television landscape seems to contract a little bit more each day, particularly as far as quality is concerned,” said Guggenheim. “For that reason, I applaud HUMANITAS for providing a launching pad for new writers to create new, quality programming. It’s my honor to help make that happen.”

Under the *New Voices* initiative, announced in November, seven television studios have agreed to develop a total of 14 scripts by emerging writers, each of which will be written under the supervision of a successful writer-producer from HUMANITAS’ Board of Directors or Board of Trustees. Twentieth Century Fox, NBC Universal, CBS Studios, ABC Studios, Lionsgate, HBO Entertainment and FX each made blind commitments to buy two pilot scripts through the program.

“We are thrilled to announce these four initial script orders, which represent a huge step, both for *New Voices* and for the talented writers involved,” said **John Wells**, HUMANITAS President. “We look forward to working with our studio partners to continue to bring together great script ideas from terrific new writers under the guidance of some of Hollywood’s most successful showrunners.”

Added HUMANITAS Executive Director **Cathleen Young**, “We were extremely pleased by the tremendous industry interest and support we received when we first presented the idea of *New Voices*. It’s even more exciting and gratifying that just a few months after finalizing the agreement we have four script orders in place. We’re extremely proud of these talented writers.”

The HUMANITAS Board of Directors consists of **Neal Baer** (“Law & Order”), **Marshall Herskovitz** (*The Last Samurai*), **Carol Mendelsohn** (“CSI”), **John Wells** (“ER”), **John Sacret Young** (“China Beach”) and **Ed Zwick** (“thirtysomething”).

The HUMANITAS Board of Trustees consists of **Paris Barclay** (“In Treatment”), **Greg Berlanti** (“Brothers & Sisters”), **Shane Brennan** (“NCIS”), **Cindy Chupack** (“Sex & the City”), **John Eisendrath** (“Alias”), **Kirk Ellis** (“John Adams”), **Brad Falchuk** (“GLEE”), **Tom Fontana** (“Oz”), **Gary David Goldberg** (“Family Ties”), **Howard Gordon** (“24”), **Marc Guggenheim** (“No Ordinary Family”), **Hart Hanson** (“Bones”), **Winnie Holzman** (“Wicked”), **David Hudgins** (“Parenthood”), **Jason Katims** (“Parenthood”), **Richard LaGravenese** (*The Horse Whisperer*), **Bill Lawrence** (“Cougar Town”), **Ali LeRoi** (“Everybody Hates Chris”), **Steve Levitan** (“Modern Family”), **Damon Lindelof** (“LOST”), **Rob Lotterstein** (“The War at Home”), **Paris Qualles** (“The Tuskegee Airmen”), **Shonda Rhimes** (“Grey’s Anatomy”), **David Shore**

(“HOUSE”), **Robin Swicord** (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*), **Matt Tarses** (“Scrubs”), **Patric Verrone** (“Futurama”), **Greg Walker** (“The Defenders”), **David Zabel** (“Detroit 1-8-7”) and **David Zuckerman** (“Family Guy”).

About HUMANITAS

The HUMANITAS Prize is an annual screenwriter's award founded in 1974 to encourage, stimulate and sustain the nation's screenwriters in their humanizing task, and to give them the recognition they deserve. The HUMANITAS Prize honors stories that affirm the dignity of the human person, probe the meaning of life, and enlighten the use of human freedom. The stories reveal common humanity, so that love may come to permeate the human family and help liberate, enrich and unify society.

The HUMANITAS Prize is funded by an endowment established through the generosity of individuals, networks, studios and foundations.

Since its inception, the HUMANITAS Prize has awarded over \$3 million to more than 283 deserving writers.

For more information, please visit the website at www.humanitasprize.org

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