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MEDIA RELEASE

Beyond Borders 2007 Media Award winners

Organization celebrates 10th anniversary while committing to save child sex tourism legislation

Winnipeg—Beyond Borders announced its 2007 media awards winners at the Park Theatre in Winnipeg on November 20, Universal Children's Day.

Meredith Ralston, of Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, received the award in the broadcast category for her riveting documentary, *Selling Sex in Heaven*, which aired on **CBC Newsworld's The Lens** in January 2007.

The film examines the lucrative and demeaning sex tourism industry in the Philippines. Seen through the eyes of two idealistic female students and a male university professor, the film depicts a young bar girl and the people who befriend her. The poverty and squalor she lives in and her hope that one day a foreigner will rescue her is both poignant and heartbreaking. Actor Kiefer Sutherland narrates the film.

Mark Bonokoski received the award in the print category for an article entitled, *The Master Seducer*, which was published in **Maclean's** magazine in May 2007.

The article reveals the background to the criminal trial of convicted pedophile, John Inglis, a former teacher at a private school in Toronto who received a sentence of house arrest for his guilty plea. It provides compelling insight into the complex dynamics of sexual abuse and the profound and enduring destructive effects upon its victims.

"We were very pleased with the caliber of the nominations this year," states Beyond Borders President, Rosalind Prober. "Dr. Ralston and Mr. Bonokoski deserve to be recognized for the exceptional work they have done. *Their* work helps *our* work to protect kids by raising public awareness about the issues related to child sexual exploitation."

The event at the Park Theatre was the organization's first public Media Awards Ceremony, which began five years ago. "We wanted to make the awards an extra special event this year as it is our 10th anniversary as a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization," explains Prober.

"While looking back and celebrating our many accomplishments at Beyond Borders," says Prober, "we must use our momentum to face the future challenges to protecting children from sexual exploitation. The first priority for Beyond Borders in 2008 will be to intervene to try to save Canada's child sex tourism legislation now scheduled for a constitutional challenge in British Columbia in *R v Klassen*."

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Beyond Borders is a national non-profit organization that advances the rights of children to be free from abuse and exploitation. It is an affiliate of Thailand-based ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes). ECPAT operates in 70 countries around the world. For more info visit www.beyondborders.org and www.ecpat.net.

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