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Oscar-Winning Filmmaker Maryann De Leo Joins With Grammy-Winning Singer, Songwriter and Activist Michael Bolton to Produce Lifetime Television Documentary on Violence Against Women

Premieres in April 2005 As Part of Network's Emmy Award-Winning Public Advocacy Campaign Uniting Women and Men to Address Issue of Gender Violence

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 /PRNewswire/ – Maryann De Leo, winner of the 2004 Academy Award for her documentary “Chernobyl Heart,” and Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter and activist Michael Bolton, are producing a documentary for Lifetime Television about the devastating impact of sexual assault and domestic violence on women and their families.

Premiering in April 2005 as the programming centerpiece of Lifetime’s Emmy Award-winning public advocacy campaign Our Lifetime Commitment: Stop Violence Against Women, the hour-long documentary will examine the personal and societal effect of gender violence, while spotlighting what individuals, communities, educators and the government have done and must continue to do to stop it and, most importantly, how women and men must come together to end this epidemic.

Lifetime is once again engaging its partners in the anti-violence community, leading experts and non-profit organizations, in the development of and outreach around the documentary. These advocates are helping to inform the messaging and content of the program. The Network also will work with the organizations to create complimentary educational and resource materials.

Through the documentary and other on-air programming and public service announcements, extensive online content, community outreach and legislative advocacy, Lifetime’s 2005 Stop Violence Against Women initiative will emphasize, among many areas, the importance of education and prevention as a key method of stopping violence against women. The Network also will focus on this message when it once again brings together thousands of advocates in Washington, D.C. for its annual “Stop Violence

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Against Women Week,” which includes several special events each year from Congress to the White House to The Kennedy Center.

“For the fourth consecutive year, we are proud to spearhead a massive national campaign uniting women and men determined to stop the violence against women and children. By uniting so many organizations, policymakers and individuals we are seeing dramatic progress, and this documentary, from two such extraordinarily talented artists as Maryann De Leo and Michael Bolton, will amplify our efforts and results,” said Meredith Wagner, Executive Vice President, Public Affairs & Corporate Communications, Lifetime Entertainment Services.

Allison Wallach, Lifetime Television’s Vice President, Programming, will serve as the Network’s executive in charge of production for the documentary. Wallach also supervised, *Until the Violence Stops*, the documentary which anchored last year’s Stop Violence Against Women campaign, won a 2004 Emmy Award for Best Music Score and received standing ovations at its two screenings at the Sundance Film Festival.

“I feel privileged working with Lifetime Television and Michael Bolton, both of whom have assumed a prominent leadership role on this issue. I look forward to producing a film that can bring more attention to the violence affecting one in three women around the world,” said De Leo.

“For the third straight year, I’m proud to be part of Lifetime’s public advocacy campaign, particularly since I have three daughters,” said Bolton. “I hope this documentary underscores a critical message that violence against women is a vicious assault on civilized society that can only be stopped when men step up to the plate and accept that this is also their problem.”

Maryann De Leo

An independent filmmaker and journalist De Leo’s films include the HBO documentaries “Rape: Cries from the Heartland” (Cable Ace Award); “High on Crack Street: Lost Lives in Lowell,” (DuPont- Columbia Award) “Six Months to Live: Alternative Medicine and the Fight for Life”; “A Cinderella Season: The Lady Vols Fight Back” (National Sports Emmy) and “Bellevue: Inside Out.”

De Leo’s work in journalism includes an Emmy Award-winning series for NBC about the corruption of the Marcos regime in the Philippines and an Emmy nomination for the NBC series *American Survival*. De Leo has also produced reports from Cambodia, Vietnam, El Salvador, Cuba, Guatemala, the former Soviet Union, China, Afghanistan, Angola, Korea, Iraq, Iran and Mexico.

Michael Bolton

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Michael Bolton – singer, songwriter and social activist – has sold more than 52 million albums and singles worldwide, winning

two Grammys for best male vocalist and six American Music Awards. A prolific songwriter, Bolton has penned songs for legendary artists including Barbra Streisand, KISS, and Kenny Rogers, co-written songs with a host of gifted songwriters including Bob Dylan, and performed with Luciana Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Ray Charles and BB King.

In 1993, he established the Michael Bolton Foundation, now the Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. (MBC) to provide assistance, education and shelter to children and women at risk from poverty, as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse. In partnership with the state of Connecticut, the MBC created “Safe Space,” a danger-free environment for youths to foster self-esteem, leadership skills, job training and awareness of social issues.

Our Lifetime Commitment: Stop Violence Against Women

Our Lifetime Commitment: Stop Violence Against Women is dedicated to raising awareness of various forms of violence such as domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; to offer lifesaving information and support; and to promote passage of progressive national legislation. In this initiative, Lifetime partners with leading non-profit organizations, bipartisan political leaders, Hollywood stars and music legends and corporations to unite women and men in efforts to stop the violence against women and girls.

In addition, the Network continues to champion critical, bipartisan legislation to eliminate the backlog of untested DNA evidence in rape kits and put more rapists behind bars, adding to thousands of petition signatures already collected on lifetimetv.com and delivering them to Congress to urge speedy passage. Lifetime also has been working in Washington to protect victims of video voyeurism and punish offenders, promoting passage of legislation sparked by the Lifetime Original Movie “Video Voyeur: the Susan Wilson Story” starring Angie Harmon. During this session of Congress, Lifetime’s efforts have been credited by lawmakers and non-profit organizations for building the momentum for the U.S. House of Representatives to overwhelmingly pass two bills that address the DNA evidence backlog and one piece of legislation that makes video voyeurism a federal crime.

Some of Lifetime’s partners include the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Center for Victims of Crime, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Mentors in Violence Prevention Strategies, Michael Bolton Charities, RAINN, Safe Horizon and V-Day, as well as Administration officials and Members of Congress.

Lifetime Entertainment Services

LIFETIME is the leader in women’s television and one of the top-rated basic cable television networks. A diverse, multi-media company, LIFETIME is committed to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming, and advocating a wide range of issues affecting women and their families. Launched in 1984, LIFETIME

Television serves over 88 million households nationwide. In 1998, LIFETIME launched Lifetime Movie Network, now in more than 43 million homes, and in 2001, Lifetime Real Women. LIFETIME Television, Lifetime Movie Network, Lifetime Real Women, Lifetime Radio for Women, Lifetime Home Entertainment and Lifetime Online are part of LIFETIME Entertainment Services, a 50/50 joint venture of The Hearst Corporation and The Walt Disney Company.