

Jill Hennessy to Receive International Achievement Award at 2010 Crystal Awards

**For Immediate Release
November 23, 2010**

Toronto, ON - Women in Film & Television - Toronto (WIFT-T) is pleased to announce actress **Jill Hennessy** as this year's recipient of the International Achievement Award. The award is presented to a Canadian woman working in screen-based media for her significant and well recognized body of work in Canada and abroad. Jill will receive her award at the **Crystal Awards Gala Luncheon** on **December 6, 2010** in **Toronto**.

"WIFT-T is excited to be able to present Jill with a Crystal Award," says Sadia Zaman, WIFT-T Executive Director. "She has a history of playing strong women with a lot of determination and character. We look forward to welcoming Jill back to Toronto."

Best known for her roles on *Law & Order* and *Crossing Jordan*, Jill will soon appear in the new HBO series *Luck*, starring Dustin Hoffman and produced and directed by Michael Mann.

"I'm honoured and extremely grateful not only to receive this award, but I'm also thrilled to celebrate incredible Canadian women," says Jill from Los Angeles.

From 1993-1996, television audiences came to know Jill as Claire Kincaid on *Law & Order*. She then played Jacqueline Kennedy in the miniseries *Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women of Camelot*. In her first season of *Crossing Jordan*, Jill was nominated for a People's Choice Award for Best Actress in a Drama Series. She took home a Golden Satellite Award for her performance in the TNT cable movie *Nuremberg* and was honoured recently with a Gracie Award and a star on Canada's Walk of Fame.

An Edmonton native, Jill's acting career began in Toronto with an appearance in *Dead Ringers*. She studied with Second City before landing a role in the Broadway production of *The Buddy Holly Story*. In New York, Jill also starred in Ron Howard's feature film *The Paper*. Her film credits include *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *Chutney Popcorn*, *Autumn in New York*, *Exit Wounds*, *Love in the Time of Money*, *Wild Hogs* and *Lymelife*, which won the International Film Critics' Award at last year's Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Jill also completed *Small Town Murder Songs*, a film directed by Toronto's Ed Gass-Donnelly that premiered this year at TIFF.

On top of her screen-based work, Jill Hennessy is also a singer-songwriter who recently released her debut album, *Ghost In My Head*. Her latest film *Roadie* features Jill playing music from the album.

Jill and husband Paolo Mastropietro divide their time between homes in Manhattan and Los Angeles with their two sons, Marco and Gianni.

Presented in partnership with **Shaw Media** and **Deluxe Postproduction**, the **2010 Crystal Awards** take place **Monday, December 6** at the **Fairmont Royal York** hotel in Toronto. To purchase tickets, visit www.wift.com

For a complete list of the 2010 Crystal Award winners, visit www.wift.com.

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Women in Film & Television – Toronto (WIFT-T) is a not-for-profit professional organization founded in 1984. WIFT-T supports women in screen-based media (film, television and digital media) to build, advance and sustain their careers nationally and internationally. WIFT-T does this through high quality, hands-on programming, mentoring, networking and industry events that recognize the talents and potential of women. Our mission is to enhance the skills of our members so they can become significant decision-makers at all levels of the industry. For more information, please visit www.wift.com.

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