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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Women in Film & Television Vancouver Makes Matches with New Mentorship Program for Actors**

*Jury includes Jason Priestley & Gary Harvey Mentors include: Carly Pope, Amanda Tapping, Gabrielle Rose, Ali Liebert, Pascale Hutton + more!*

Vancouver, BC – In the midst of struggling with a difficult career decision, what if you had somebody to help guide you? As you're paving the road ahead, what if you could learn from someone who had already successfully walked the same ground? What if you had someone to answer all your questions?

What if you had a mentor?

Ask any Oscar winner, and they will quickly rattle off a list of people who have helped guide their careers and have selflessly shared their wisdom along the way.

Yet, how does one find a good mentor? That is a question that **Krista Magnusson**, one of the directors on the board of Women in Film & Television Vancouver, had found herself seeking an answer for. Like many local actors, she had done her fair share of training and independent film & theatre work, but was seeking guidance for that crucial next step.

Her search has revealed that there were no acting mentorship programs available. So she decided to launch one.

Through **Women in Film & Television Vancouver**, a

six-month program was launched with the intention of providing female actors with guidance and inspiration in developing their craft and advancing their acting careers.

The program matches successful applicants (Mentees) with female working actors (Mentors), with whom they will meet with for one hour, once a month for six months, working through specific goals set for the program.

WIFTV opened the program in November 2013 and has received a flood of applications, which were presented to a jury that included actor/director, **Jason Priestley** (Call Me Fitz, Beverly Hills 90210), producer/director/writer **Gary Harvey** (Arctic Air, Cold Squad), in addition to Magnusson (Untold Stories of the ER, Beauty Mark).

“It’s a wonderful program you’re running... Just from reading all the applications, it seems like a program that was very much in need!,” said Priestley.

The mentors assembled are a who’s who of Canadian talent and include: **Amanda Tapping** (Stargate SG-1, Sanctuary), **Carly Pope** (Elysium, The Tomorrow People), **Carmen Moore** (Blackstone, Arctic Air), **Christine Willes** (Red Riding Hood, Emily Owens, M.D.), **Keegan Connor Tracy** (Once Upon a Time, Bates Motel), **Pascale Hutton** (Arctic Air, Fantastic Four), **April Telek** (Amazon Falls, Hell on Wheels), **Lori Triolo** (Blackstone, Supernatural), **Chelah Horsdal** (The Cabin in the Woods, Rise of the Planet of the Apes), **Gabrielle Rose** (Once Upon a Time, The Dick Knost Show), **Ellie Harvie** (Some Assembly Required, The Cabin in the Woods), **Sarah Jane Redmond**

(Almost Human, The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants), **Ali Liebert** (Bomb Girls, Afterparty), **Julia Benson** (SGU Stargate Universe, Death Do Us Part), **Crystal Lowe** (Primeval: New World, Hot Tub Time Machine), **Sonja Bennett** (Random Acts of Romance, Fido), **Johannah Newmarch** (The Weather Girl, When the Heart Calls), **and Luvia Petersen** (Continuum, Falling Skies).

The winning actors are Laura Adkin, Elora Braden, Jazmine Campanale, Aria DeMaris, Ashley Hunking, Kat Karpoff, Jennifer Kobelt, Jennifer Koenig, Kelly Metzger, Quynh Mi, Tijana Popovic, Sabrina Prada, Briana Rayner, Debra Sears, Olesia Shewchuk, Nicole Shorrock, Jax Smith, Orsy Szabo

The mentees are now being informed of their exciting matches and the program is kicking off from February 1 to July 31, 2014!

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