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THE CW NETWORK TO AIR “WOMEN IN FILM PRESENTS: MAKE IT WORK!” A VARIETY SHOW TO BENEFIT THE WIF HIRE HER BACK CAMPAIGN
The hour-long show, including special musical performances, will air Wednesday, August 26, 2020

August 4, 2020 (Los Angeles, CA) – The CW Network and WIF (Women In Film, Los Angeles) announced today that the network will broadcast WIF’s WOMEN IN FILM PRESENTS: MAKE IT WORK! on Wednesday, August 26 (8:00-9:00pm ET/PT). The one-hour variety special, a combination of music, comedy and fun celebrity testimonials, explores the issues and solutions for getting women back to work. The show will air on The CW Network on Wednesday, August 26 (8:00-9:00pm ET) and then move to The CW digital platforms, CWTV.COM and The CW App.

Talent confirmed for the special thus far include Mara Brock Akil, Lake Bell, Alison Brie, Connie Britton, Nkechi Okoro Carroll, Rosario Dawson, Beanie Feldstein, Jane Fonda, Jennifer Garner, Elizabeth Gillies, Kathryn Hahn, Rachael Harris, Cheryl Hines, Sarah Jeffery, Marta Kauffman, Javicia Leslie, Melanie Liburd, Catt Sadler, Andrea Savage, Alexandra Shipp, Rain Valedz, Michaela Watkins, Kym Whitley, Alfre Woodard and others to be announced. The show’s executive producers are Stephanie Allain (“Dear White People,” the 2020 Academy Awards), Amy Baer (“Last Vegas”) and Monica Levinson (“Borat”). The directors are Hannah Levy (“Saturday Night Live”) and Adriana Robles (“Saturday Night Live”). The writers are Wendy Button (CNN’s “Heroes”), Simbi Hall (Women That Soar Awards) and Mishy Turner (“Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt”).

Hire Her Back (HHB) was launched on June 10, 2020 as a call for industry-wide action to rebuild a workforce that hires women and people of color equitably as we recover from the COVID-19 crisis. COVID-19 is both a public health pandemic and a socioeconomic crisis. Women and people of color are at a higher risk of job loss and of exposure to the virus. There is ample evidence suggesting that women will have significant difficulty rebounding from the
COVID-19 crisis, in particular Latinx and Black women, who have faced some of the highest rates of unemployment of any group as a result of the pandemic. The goal is to protect the progress that women and people of color have made recently in front of and behind the camera: so that employers across the entertainment landscape hire women and people of color back to their former positions AND to fill new ones, to build to a *new normal* for parity in the screen industries.

The additional goal is to raise money for the WIF Hire Her Back Fund that will disburse grants to women whose livelihoods in film and television have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 crisis as they are returning to the workforce. Funds raised will also be used to protect WIF’s core programs, which have been lifelines during the COVID-19 crisis. These include career pipeline and mentorship programs like INSIGHT, a collective of emerging BIWOC filmmakers, our Help Line for sexual harassment—which is expanding to address racial discrimination—as well as support groups for community members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While this will be WIF’s first televised benefit, its Annual Gala is covered by major media nationally and internationally. For the past 30+ years, WIF has produced a high-level annual live event that celebrates the achievement of women in film and television and has served as a platform to deliver key messages about gender equality and parity in front of and behind the camera. Last year’s show honored Issa Rae and Amy Poehler. Past honorees include Elizabeth Banks, Ava DuVernay, Nicole Kidman, Kerry Washington, Cate Blanchett, Laura Linney, Viola Davis, Annette Bening, Jennifer Aniston, Renée Zellweger, Jennifer Lopez, Sandra Bullock, Gwyneth Paltrow, Halle Berry, Glenn Close, Jessica Lange, Drew Barrymore, Meryl Streep, Angela Bassett, and many more.

The special will be produced in association with ShivHans Pictures. Seed funding for the grants has been generously provided by the founder of ShivHans, producer Shivani Rawat. Additional contributions to the fund can be made at wif.org; information about the grants is now available on the website.

Founded in 1973 as *Women In Film, Los Angeles*, WIF advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries—to achieve parity and transform culture.

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