For Immediate Release:

WOMEN IN FILM, LOS ANGELES AND THE BLACK LIST
ANNOUNCE SELECTION OF FINALISTS AND
INSTRUCTORS FOR INAUGURAL EPISODIC LAB

Los Angeles, CA, Wednesday, July 20….In March, Women In Film, LA and The Black List announced that they had joined forces to create a television lab for female writers. The eight finalists for the inaugural Women In Film/The Black List Episodic Lab have now been chosen and were announced today by WIF and The Black List. The Lab, which runs for eight weeks beginning in August, will emphasize both craft and professional development, in order to equip participants with the knowledge on how to build and sustain their careers, through programs on script development, workshopping sessions and Master Classes with established writers and industry executives. Lab participants will be hosted by the Black List website for free and have their final pilots read by a variety of agencies and networks, to be announced at a later date.

The 2016 Lab is sponsored by HBO.

Instructors for the Episodic Lab were also unveiled today. They represent many of television’s most experienced, talented and lauded writers, show creators, executive producers and supervising producers, including: Cindy Chupack (SEX AND THE CITY, MODERN FAMILY), Mara Brock Akil (BEING MARY JANE, GIRLFRIENDS), Melissa Rosenberg (JESSICA JONES, TWILIGHT Trilogy), Glen Mazzara (DAMIEN, THE WALKING DEAD), Stacy Rukeyser (UNREAL, GREEK), Monica Beletsky (FARGO, FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS), Lauren LeFranc (AGENTS OF SHIELD, CHUCK), Jenn Kaytin Robinson (SWEET/VICIOUS).

“The participants and instructors for this inaugural WIF/Black List Episodic Lab exemplify an incredible wealth and range of talent,” said WIF Executive Director Kirsten Schaffer. “This group of instructors, on top of their extraordinary qualifications, are passionately dedicated to helping women writers succeed in television and to raising the number of women working in writers rooms and running shows.”

"It was exceedingly difficult to narrow the hundreds of worthy scripts and writers to our final eight," said The Black List’s Director of Events Megan Halpern of the selection process. “The bright side of such a difficult process is that it further proves the point that there are many talented women currently going unhired in this industry for reasons unrelated to their talent and writing. It's unconscionable, and the Black List is proud to be part of changing it."

THE FINALISTS

Name: Erica Bardin & Susan Graham
Series Title: SHEPHERDS
Logline: When dedicated pharmaceutical researcher Madison Shepherds gets fired for questionable reasons, she decides to start an underground psychedelic therapy clinic with her terminally ill father and hippie best friend. They run the Shepherds Clinic from the attached garage in her parents' Tucson home,
unbeknownst to her mother, a Republican senator in the middle of a reelection campaign largely financed by big pharma.

Name: Gesha-Marie Bland  
Series Title: LEGEND OF A QUEEN  
Logline: After the ultimate betrayal by her husband, an ambitious Queen challenges her misogynist peers and the Roman Empire to gain political power and avenge the rape of her daughters, until a final battle forces a choice between life, family and legacy.

Name: Denise Jaxon  
Series Title: TEN MILES TO SUNSET  
Logline: During 1960's Los Angeles, in the twilight of the Black Panther party and the dawn of the CRIPS, three LAPD officers with troubled lives and conflicting backgrounds battle to patrol the streets of South Central LA from their own self-righteous viewpoint while fueling the historically divisive precinct and compromising their safety on the streets.

Name: Jean Lee  
Series Title: STRANGER PILGRIM Season 1 Title: ROBOT COURTESAN  
Logline: A sci fi anthology series about unlikely heroes who encounter the horrors and delights of both humanity and technology as they deal with innovations that blur the line between man and machine. Season 1 follows a subversive Pinocchio story about a man who creates the world's most human-like robot for prostitution; only, the more he succeeds in making her human, the less control he has over her, until eventually she begins to wonder if she is capable of more…

Name: Jamie Mayer  
Series Title: TOMORROWLAND  
Logline: The staff of a high-end Malibu rehab center try to keep their own lives together while dealing with the needs of their wealthy, often celebrity, clients.

Name: Colleen McAllister  
Series Title: PUSSIES  
Logline: An animated comedy about a bunch of cats living in a cul-de-sac, confirming what we all know to be true, cats are assholes.

Names: Erin Weller & Kate Heckman  
Series Title: FALSE FLAG  
Logline: When a plane full of passengers disappears, Hester Scott, CIA, tracks down her former partner to help stop the terrorists responsible. The trouble is, her partner now works for them.

Name: Jeane Wong  
Series Title: THE THIN LINE  
Logline: A revisionist history series set in present-day America where segregation still exists.

WIF LA and The Black List also announced nineteen talented screenwriters who were semi-finalists for the Episodic Lab.

THE SEMI-FINALISTS  
(For loglines to their series go to: http://womeninfilm.org/2016-black-list-episodic-lab/)

Name: Sarah Beckett  
Series Title: PLAYING DEAD
Name: Déjà Bernhardt-Leazer  
Series Title: THE HYLNE

Name: Bronwen Clark  
Series Title: NOSH

Name: Liz Cotone  
Series Title: SERF

Name: Meagan Daine  
Series title: GONE TOWN

Name: Jenny Deiker  
Series Title: BAPTISTE

Name: Nancy Duff  
Series Title: DEAD DROP

Name: Melanie Holmes  
Series Title: HOPEWELL

Name: Jillian Lauren  
Series Title: HAREM

Name: Lindsay McRae  
Series Title: UNITY

Name: Kate Murdoch  
Series Title: OUR KINGDOM PRIMED

Name: Erin Rodman  
Series Title: SUPERIOR

Name: Paula Sabbaga  
Series Title: PROS AND CONS

Name: Dawn Spinella  
Series Title: G.I. JANE

Name: Nadria Tucker  
Series Title: THE REPORTER

Name: Kay Tuxford & E.S. Dahl  
Series Title: 40 ELEPHANTS

Name: Ursula Wendel  
Series Title: HEMISPHERE

Name: April Wright  
Series Title: SOUL CITY

Name: Sarah Zucker  
Series Title: THE SUN SET
About Women In Film

Women In Film is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for women, encouraging creative projects by women, and expanding and enhancing portrayals of women in all forms of global media. Given that women comprise fifty percent of the population, WIF's ultimate goal is to see the same gender parity reflected on and off screen. Founded in 1973, WIF focuses on advocacy and education, provides scholarships, grants and film finishing funds and works to preserve the legacies of all women working in the entertainment community. For more information, visit www.wif.org.

About The Black List

The Black List, an annual survey of Hollywood executives' favorite unproduced screenplays, was founded in 2005. Since then, more than 325 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over $26 billion in box office worldwide. Black List movies have won 45 Academy Awards, including four of the last eight Best Picture Oscars and nine of the last eighteen Best Screenplay Oscars. In October of 2012, the Black List launched a unique online community where screenwriters make their work available to readers, buyers and employers. Since its inception, it has hosted more than 35,000 screenplays and teleplays and provided more than 60,000 script evaluations. As a direct result of introductions made on the Black List, hundreds of writers have found representation at major talent agencies and management companies, as well as sold or optioned their screenplays. Currently, the Black List hosts over 3,000 scripts for consideration by over 3,500 film industry professionals ranging from agency assistants, to studio and network presidents, to A-list actors and directors.

More information on the Black List is available at www.blcklst.com

About HBO

Home Box Office, Inc. is the premium television programming subsidiary of Time Warner Inc. and the world’s most successful pay TV service, providing the two television services – HBO® and Cinemax® – to approximately 122 million subscribers worldwide. The services offer the popular subscription video-on-demand products HBO On Demand® and Cinemax On Demand®, as well as HBO GO® and MAX GO®, HD feeds and multiplex channels. HBO NOW℠, the network’s internet only premium streaming service, provides audiences with instant access to HBO’s acclaimed programming in the U.S. Internationally, HBO branded television networks, along with the subscription video-on-demand products HBO On Demand and HBO GO, bring HBO services to over 60 countries. HBO and Cinemax programming is sold into over 150 countries worldwide.

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