



Aboriginal Peoples  
Television Network

## MEDIA ADVISORY

www.aptn.ca  
September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### APTN CONGRATULATES 2011 GEMINI AWARD WINNERS AND NOMINEES

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) congratulates the programs associated with the network which were recognized by the *Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television* at the *2011 Gemini Awards*.

The drama series *Blackstone* won two awards. Last night at the Broadcast Gala, the prestigious award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role went to Michelle Thrush for her role of Gail Stoney. Carmen Moore also received a nomination in this category. Earlier last week, Robb Thompson, Darren Bierman, Shelley Cornies and Steve Seeley also won the award for Best Achievement in Main Title Design for *Blackstone*. The one-hour dramatic series that tells the story of a First Nation community suffering disintegration by its own hand was broadcast on APTN and Showcase in the spring of 2011.

Adam Beach and Evan Adams, the hosts of *The 18th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards* left with the award for the Best Performance or Host in a Variety Program or Series and Kelly Jones won the The Best Photography in a Variety of Performing Arts Program or Series award for *The 18th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards* that was also nominated for Best Music, Variety Program or Series.

Also nominated was *CAUTION: May Contain Nuts* for Best Direction in a Comedy Program or Series (Dana Andersen and Bruce Pirrie). Andrea Menard received a nomination for Best Performance in a Performing Arts Program or Series for *Sparkle – an Evening with Andrea Menard*. *The Uluit: Champions of the North* (Ari A. Cohen, Susan Avingaq, Marie-Hélène Cousineau, Madeline Ivalu)

was nominated for Best Documentary Series and *Anash and the Legacy of the Sun-Rock* (Josh Miller and Carol Geddes) obtained a nomination for Best Children's or Youth Fiction Program or Series.

The awards were presented over three evenings; the *Annual Gemini Awards Industry Galas* took place on August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in Toronto, Ontario at the Metro Toronto Convention centre; and the *Broadcast Gala* was held on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the CBC Building.

The Gemini Awards celebrate excellence in Canadian English-language television by creating a national television showcase to assist the industry in building television audiences and public awareness, as well as an appreciation of Canadian production and talent.

**About APTN:**

September 1, 2011 marked the 12-year anniversary of the launch of the first national Aboriginal television network in the world with programming by, for and about Aboriginal Peoples to share with all Canadians and viewers around the world. APTN is available in approximately 10 million Canadian households and commercial establishments with cable, direct-to-home satellite (DTH), telco-delivered and fixed wireless television service providers. The network launched its high definition channel APTNHD in the spring of 2008. APTN does not receive government funding for operations but generates revenue through subscriber fees, advertising sales and strategic partnerships. APTN broadcasts programming with 56% offered in English, 16% in French and 28% in Aboriginal languages. For program schedule or for more information, please contact APTN at (204) 947-9331 or toll-free at 1-888-278-8862, or visit the website at [www.aptn.ca](http://www.aptn.ca).

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