



October 24, 2005

**CBS TO SPONSOR ITS
1st MULTICULTURAL SKETCH COMEDY TALENT SHOWCASE IN LOS ANGELES
ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
IN ASSOCIATION WITH AFTRA AND SAG**

Pictures and Resumes Should Be Sent to AFTRA in Los Angeles by November 4

CBS, in association with AFTRA and SAG, will sponsor a talent showcase for multicultural sketch comedians on January 24, 2006, in Los Angeles. Executive Producer and Writer, Rick Najera (“Latinologues,” “Mad TV,” “In Living Color”) will direct the event. “We are thrilled to be working with Rick on this exciting new diversity showcase. We look forward to bringing together the best talent in this genre,” said Josie Thomas, CBS Senior Vice President, Diversity.

**Pictures and resumes should be sent to:
AFTRA, 5757 Wilshire Blvd., 9th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90036
Attn: Ron Thomas**

The deadline for submissions is Friday, November 4

Please note: the showcase is focused on African American, Latino Hispanic, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Native American and Performers with Disabilities with extensive sketch comedy experience. Each audition will require a 1-minute original monologue.

CBS Entertainment executives, plus casting directors from the Network's primetime and daytime programs, will be on hand at the Showcase -- and an invitation has also been extended to casting directors from production companies that work with CBS. “This event promises not only to introduce casting directors, agents, managers and writers to a talented group of performers but, thanks to Rick’s participation, it will be a one of a kind theatrical evening,” said Peter Golden, CBS and Paramount Executive Vice President, Casting.

The Network's ongoing talent showcases are part of the CBS Diversity Institute, a comprehensive program designed to identify and develop diversity within the writing, directing and talent communities. In addition to the Minority Talent Showcases, currently in their fourth year, the CBS Diversity Institute also includes the CBS Writers Mentoring Program and the CBS Directing Initiative.

Other CBS showcases have included Latino American Talent Showcases in partnership with NOSOTROS, Native American Talent Showcases in association with American Indians in Film and Television, Asian Pacific American Actors Showcases in association with East West Players, African American Showcases in collaboration with The Robey Theatre Company and a showcase for performers with disabilities in association with the California State Media Access Office. More events are planned with these and other groups.

“AFTRA is proud of its strong and continuing partnership with CBS in bringing these opportunities to our members,” said National President John Connolly. “Because of their diversity casting initiatives, CBS was the recipient of AFTRA’s *American Scene Award*®.”

For information regarding the CBS Diversity Institute, please go to www.cbsdiversity.com.

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