

# Media Alert

## **Are You Hungry for History? - Lioness Media Arts Satisfies even the Most Discerning Tastes with Mr. Dreyfuss Goes to Washington**

*President Rachel Lyon delivers behind-the-scenes historical documentary November. 26th  
at 9pm on The History Channel*

Atlanta, GA (November 13, 2001) - **Lioness Media Arts**, an award-winning independent production company, delivers its latest project on November 26th at 9pm on The History Channel. The program promises to delight and captivate audiences of all ages as it defines the great city of Washington, D.C. through its memorials, monuments, anecdotes and history. What roused political predecessors, galvanized members of Congress and inspired U.S. Presidents are the subjects that make for a historically absorbing documentary in *Mr. Dreyfuss Goes to Washington*.

Washington, D.C. was the first national capital to be designed as a seat of government, and the only capital to symbolically reflect and foster guiding values and principals. Revolutionary War Veteran, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, was commissioned by President George Washington to design the city. His plan was complex, made up of radiating avenues intersected by a grid of north-south streets with circles and squares ready to receive the monuments of future national heroes.

"Unfortunately L'Enfant was self-righteous, hot-headed, imperious, unreasonable, arrogant, and exasperating," says Lyon. "He alienated all his supporters, was disrespectful to the three person commission overseeing the construction of the new city and eventually fired. L'Enfant died a pauper and was not honored for his contributions until over 100 years later."

Rachel V. Lyon, president of **Lioness Media Arts, Inc.**, directs and co-produces Mr. Dreyfuss Goes to Washington. She serves as Director of Media Arts and assistant professor at Reinhardt College for the School of Business & Communications in Waleska, Georgia. She is currently immersed in the creation of a new performing arts and media center at the college set to open in 2002. Ms. Lyon has produced 4 feature films, 60 documentaries and two series. Each program has impacted the national consciousness including breaking through social barriers in her National Emmy-awarding winning *Men Who Molest: Children Who Survive*; exposing the black market trade of selling plutonium in *The Terror Trade*; revealing the devastating plight of Tibetan emigrants in *Shadow over Tibet*; and disclosing the startling effects of fundamentalism in *The Glory and the Power*.

"George Washington could have easily been king, but believed so strongly in the principles of democracy that we all owe him a debt of gratitude," adds co-producer and host, Richard Dreyfuss. "That's what impresses me so much about Washington. He truly put the nation first."

"This documentary provides the human perspective where monuments are representative of the time of construction and not necessarily the time of action," says Producer Akram Elias. "The Lincoln Memorial is a great testament to that end as it embodies reconciliation and social justice though if erected many decades earlier it would have most likely avowed victory."

***Mr. Dreyfuss Goes to Washington*** pays particular attention to the nuances of time, the frailties of the human spirit, and the contradictions between ideas and actions.

"This program will last for generations as a valuable asset in describing the evolution of the Nation's Capital and its important role as a tribute to our democracy," says John G. Parsons, associate regional director, United States Department of the Interior.

Richard Dreyfuss has defined much of American culture with appealing films such as *American Graffiti*, *Jaws*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *Mr. Holland's Opus* which earned him an Academy Award Best Actor Nomination. A history buff, he currently stars in *The Education of Max Bickford*, where he plays a history professor at a women's college.

Scoring the music for the program is Emmy Award-winner Michael Kamen whose talents include composer, artist, arranger, conductor, and collaborator. As an established film composer he has written music for over 70 movies including *Band of Brothers*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *The Iron Giant* and *101 Dalmatians*.

An edited version of ***Mr. Dreyfuss Goes to Washington*** will air on The History Channel Classroom, an hour long, commercial-free programming block that airs Monday through Friday to hundreds of classrooms nationwide with supplemental teaching materials available online.

Now reaching 77 million subscribers, The History Channel reveals the power and passion of history as an inviting place where people experience history personally and connect their own lives to the great lives and events of the past. The History Channel is the only place "Where the Past Comes Alive." The History Channel web site is located at [www.HistoryChannel.com](http://www.HistoryChannel.com).