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Maria Menounos to Host 35th Annual Gracie Awards Gala

May 25, 2010 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel

April 29, 2010 (McLean, VA) – [The Alliance for Women in Media](#), formerly known as American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT), will honor the 2010 National Gracie Award winners at a celebrity gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, CA on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. We are pleased to announce that **Maria Menounos**, co-host of [Access Hollywood](#) will serve as this year's Host of the event. [The Gracie Awards](#) (also known as "the Gracies") recognize exemplary programming created for women, by women, and about women in all facets of media, including radio, television, cable and new media.

Maria Menounos is a special correspondent for *Access Hollywood*, the daily entertainment newsmagazine show in its 14th season of providing some of the most comprehensive coverage of entertainment news and personalities on television. Maria is a regular West Coast Contributor for *The Today Show* as well as correspondent for *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams*. As a journalist, Maria holds the distinct honor of having conducted the only interview with the entire Obama family. The interview was touted by political experts as one of the defining moments to Obama's victory.

Her small screen acting endeavors include guest roles on CBS' *Without a Trace* and HBO's *Entourage* as well as a recurring role on the CW's *One Tree Hill*. On the big screen, Maria appeared in *Tropic of Thunder* and *Fantastic Four*. Maria most recently produced and starred in *Serial Buddies* (produced by her Underman/OmegaGirl production company) which will release in 2011. She has been recognized as one of *People Magazine's* "50 Most Beautiful."

After her junior year at Boston's Emerson College, Menounos became an international correspondent for Channel One News where she interviewed President George W. Bush and traveled the globe reporting on world affairs. Her coverage of the AIDS virus in South Africa inspired her to dedicate herself to charity work and to create the non-profit, [Take Action Hollywood!](#) (TAH!). TAH! is a charity whose mission is to utilize the power of the entertainment industry and the production medium to educate, empower and raise social awareness. TAH! has helped raise awareness for diabetes, pet adoption, women's suffering, MS, racism and countless others.

"Maria is an outstanding choice for host of the Gracie Awards," said Cary Broussard, president of Alliance for Women in Media. "By virtue of her experience as a journalist, an actress and her willingness to give back to her community and to important causes makes her a perfect fit."

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April 29, 2010
Page Two

The Gracies are presented by the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Alliance for Women in Media that supports educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Gracie Awards, established in 1975, honors programming and individuals of the highest caliber in all facets of radio, television, cable and web-based media, including news, drama, comedy, commercials, public service, documentary and sports.

The event is made possible through the generous support of the 2010 title sponsor Dove and *The Campaign for Real Beauty* and the following additional sponsors: Arbitron, Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc., Clear Channel Communications, ESPN, Ford Motor Company, Google, HBO, Katz Media Group, Loreen Arbus Foundation, National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA), National Public Radio (NPR), NBC Universal, VCI Solutions, Turner Broadcasting, Inc. (CNN), Universal Media Studios and WE TV. Sponsored tables are available by contacting Gracies Headquarters at 703-506-3290.

For more information about the 2010 Gracies, please visit www.thegracies.org. For the most up-to-date, insider information, follow the Gracie Awards on Twitter @thegracies.

CREDENTIALLED PRESS: For press information in regard to covering the red carpet and the event, please contact ESP Public Relations at 310-827-9727.

About the Alliance for Women in Media: The year 2010 marks the 59th Anniversary of the Alliance for Women in Media (formerly known as American Women in Radio & Television), the longest established professional association dedicated to advancing women in media and entertainment. The Alliance for Women in Media carries forth its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource to its members and the industry at large. Founded in 1951, the organization works to improve the quality of electronic media; promote the entry, development and advancement of women in the field; foster communication and idea exchange; and give back to the community we serve.

About Alliance for Women in Media Foundation: Alliance for Women in Media Foundation (formerly known as American Women in Radio & Television) is the philanthropic arm of the organization, supporting educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Alliance for Women in Media Foundation has created partnerships and joint-initiatives with the National Middle School Association, the Emma Bowen Foundation, the American Red Cross and other organizations that are philosophically aligned with the mission of the Foundation.

The Foundation supports several public service campaigns including most recently *Empowering America* which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this initiative, the Foundation has adopted needy urban middle schools around the country and provided educational donations derived from collateral based on the *Empowering America* program. The Foundation also produces nationally acclaimed recognition programs including the Gracie Awards®, a live gala that awards exemplary programming created for, by, and about women.

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