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**STATEMENT BY LOWELL PETERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MICHAEL WINSHIP,
PRESIDENT OF THE WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST PRAISING PBS FOR ITS
DECISION TO RESTORE TWO LANDMARK INDIE SERIES TO THE NATIONAL PRIMETIME
BROADCAST SCHEDULE**

New York, NY, May 10, 2012 – The Writers Guild of America, East is pleased to hear of [PBS's announcement](#) that it will be implementing a new strategy to bolster the mission-focused, independently produced content centered largely on its landmark series *POV* and *Independent Lens*, rescheduling them to a national primetime spot on the broadcast schedule.

WGAE Executive Director Lowell Peterson, and President Michael Winship, released the following statement:

“With the news that the series *POV* and *Independent Lens* will move in late October to a prime spot on the PBS schedule – Monday nights at 10 -- we are pleased that PBS has decided to restore independent documentaries to an airtime in its national core schedule. As the Writers Guild of America, East said when it joined in protesting the schedule change in April, the move announced today will allow the greatest exposure and best opportunity for viewers to see these important works so relevant to the PBS mandate for diversity and public service. We are especially grateful for the open minds and willingness to negotiate at PBS that allowed this decision to take place and congratulate the independent film community for the solidarity and sense of purpose that resulted in such a successful outcome.”

The Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) is a labor union representing writers in motion pictures, television, cable, digital media, and broadcast news. The Guild negotiates and administers contracts that protect the creative and economic rights of their members; conduct programs, seminars, and events on issues of interest to writers; and present writers' views to various bodies of government. For more information on the Writers Guild of America, East, visit www.wgaeast.org.

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