



PRESS RELEASE

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**KRISTEN WIIG TO PRESENT JUDD APATOW WITH THE HERB
SARGENT AWARD FOR COMEDY EXCELLENCE AT THE 2012
WRITERS GUILD AWARDS EAST COAST CEREMONY**

*DAYTIME TELEVISION VETERAN CLAIRE LABINE TO RECEIVE THE IAN MCLELLAN HUNTER
AWARD; BOARDWALK EMPIRE CREATOR AND WRITER TERENCE WINTER JOINS FELLOW
WRITERS SHARI SPRINGER BERMAN AND ROBERT PULCINI AND CBS SUNDAY MORNING
CONTRIBUTOR AND WRITER NANCY GILES AS FEATURED PRESENTERS*

New York City – Kristen Wiig will present the Herb Sargent Award for Comedy Excellence to Judd Apatow at the Writers Guild of America Awards Ceremony in New York City. Daytime television veteran Claire Labine will also be honored when she receives the Ian McLellan Hunter Award at the ceremony, which takes place at B.B. King Blues Club on Sunday, February 19, 2012. *Boardwalk Empire* creator, executive producer and writer Terence Winter joins writers Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini and CBS “Sunday Morning” contributor, writer and co-host Nancy Giles to present at the ceremony.

As part of its theme for the 2012 East Coast ceremony, WGAE is focusing attention on the importance of writers celebrating and honoring each other, hence the predominance of writer presenters featured in this year’s ceremony.

Michael Winship, President of the Writers Guild of America, East, said, "With this year's Sargent and Hunter Awards, we honor one of the most important aspects of

membership in the Guild: collegiality. Both Judd Apatow and Claire Labine not only have created notable and entertaining bodies of work; they have gone out of their way to encourage and mentor new young writers, offering constant and solid support to those just starting out in the business. I'm especially delighted that we are celebrating my dear and distinguished friend Claire, a longtime stalwart of the Writers Guild, East."

The Herb Sargent Award for Comedy Excellence is named for Herb Sargent, who spent his life serving television, writing for *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, *The Steve Allen Plymouth Show*, *The Dennis Miller Show*, and at *Saturday Night Live* for over twenty years. Sargent served as a councilmember for the Writers Guild of America, East for four years before he became president of the Guild – serving in that role for over 14 years until his death.

Judd Apatow is one of the most influential writers/directors in Hollywood. He rose to prominence with his critically acclaimed television series *Freaks and Geeks*, and has written such Hollywood blockbusters as *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*, and *Pineapple Express*, in addition to producing such films as *Step Brothers*, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, and *Bridesmaids*, which was written by Annie Mumolo and Kristen Wiig.

Kristen Wiig rose to prominence in 2005 when she became a cast member on *Saturday Night Live*. She has starred in several films since then, including *Knocked Up*, *The Brothers Solomon*, *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*, *Adventureland*, *Extract*, *Whip It*, *MacGruber*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Date Night*, and *Paul*. In 2011, she co-wrote and starred in *Bridesmaids*, which has earned her critical acclaim and nominations for best original screenplay by the Academy Awards, and the Writers Guild of America as well as a nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture- Comedy or Musical by The Golden Globes.

A pioneer of daytime television, Claire Labine created, and wrote *Ryan's Hope* from 1975 to 1989. Following her 14 year run on the show, she wrote such films as *The Bride in Black*, *She Woke Up*, and *Star*. From 1993 to 1996 Ms. Labine wrote for *General Hospital*, where she wrote a groundbreaking storyline centered on AIDS. She was head writer for *One Life to Live* from 1996-1998 and head writer for *Guiding Light* from 2000-2001.

The Ian McLellan Hunter Award was established in 1992 and named in memory of longtime WGAE member Ian McLellan Hunter. The award is presented to a WGA member in honor of his/her body of work as a writer in motion pictures or television. Hunter's more than 20 screen credits include *Eye Witness* and *A Woman of Distinction*. Harassed by the blacklist in the 1950s, Hunter went on to write several successful television series under a pseudonym and then reemerged as a writer on many television projects, including *The Blue and The Gray*.

Terence Winter is the creator, writer and executive producer of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. Prior to *Boardwalk*, Winter was a writer and executive producer on the award-winning series *The Sopranos*.

Nancy Giles is currently a Peabody award-winning contributor, writer and co-host on CBS "Sunday Morning." She is also known for her role on *China Beach*, and *Delta*. Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini are best known for writing the critically acclaimed films *American Splendor*, *Wanderlust*, and *The Nanny Diaries*.

The 2012 Writer's Guild Awards will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2012 at B.B. King Blues Club in New York City and simultaneously at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. For more information or to purchase tickets to the New York City awards ceremony, call 212-767-7812 or visit the WGAE website at www.wgaeast.org.

For Media press inquiries about the 2012 Writers Guild Awards New York Show, please contact Sunshine Sachs at 212-691-2800, or email strell@sunshinesachs.com

For media inquiries about the 2012 Writers Guild Awards Los Angeles show, please contact Gregg Mitchell in the WGAW Communications Department at: (323) 782-4561, email: gmitchell@wga.org, or visit online at: www.wga.org.

The Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) and Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) are labor unions representing writers in motion pictures, television, cable, digital media, and broadcast news. The Guilds negotiate and administer 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. For more information on the Writers Guild of America, West, visit

www.wga.org.

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