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A Night of A Thousand Stars at the 36th Annual Gracie Awards® Gala



Pictured Above: Chelsea Handler and Giuliana Rancic; Patricia Heaton, Shaun Robinson, Lauren Harper, Holly Robinson Peete; Zachary Levi and Yvette Nicole Brown; Linda Ellerbee and Aaron Brown, Francia Raisa, Erin Fuller, Meredith Vieira and Valerie Blackburn, Morgan Fairchild and Laura Berman.

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Los Angeles, CA – May 25, 2011 – Last night, Hollywood’s stars shone a little brighter as the Alliance for Women in Media descended upon the historic Beverly Hilton Hotel, for the 36th Annual Gracie Awards. 2011 National Gracie Award winners were honored in a star-studded gala hosted by Emmy® Award-winning actress [Patricia Heaton](#). 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. The awards program also encourages the realistic and multifaceted portrayal of women in entertainment, news, features and other programs.

The black-tie Gala attracted the best and brightest in the field, ESPN’s **Erin Andrews**; NBC *Community*’s **Yvette Nicole Brown**; Fox Sports Radio’s **Deb Carson**; ABC Family *Pretty Little Liars*’ **Lucy Hale**; Lifetime *Army Wives*’ **Kim Delaney**; Actress, author, activist **Morgan Fairchild**; Olympic champion **Peggy Fleming**; E! *Chelsea Lately*’s **Chelsea Handler**; NPR’s **Julie McCarthy**; *Access Hollywood*’s **Maria Menounos**; CBS *Rules of Engagement*’s **Megyn Price**; E!’s **Giuliana Rancic**; CBS *The Talk*’s **Holly Robinson-Peete**; Model & Activist **Christy Turlington Burns**; NBC *Today Show*’s **Meredith Vieira**...and hundreds more.

Emmy® Award-winning journalist and weekend co-anchor and correspondent for *Access Hollywood* [Shaun Robinson](#) was honored with the 2011 Dove® Real Beauty Award. Alliance for Women in Media and Dove created the Dove Real Beauty Award to honor an individual who best embodies and expresses the “substance and spirit” of real beauty through her life and career. A strong advocate for empowering young girls, Shaun serves on the board of the non-profit youth organization Girls, Inc., has celebrated exceptional teenage girls by co-creating and co-hosting the “I Am Perfect – Exactly As I Am” event, and is the author of the inspiring book about girls and self-esteem, *Exactly As I Am: Celebrated Women Share Candid Advice with Today’s Girls on What it Takes to Believe in Yourself*.

The highly esteemed 2011 Gracies Tribute Award was presented to Emmy Award-winning journalist and producer and bestselling author [Linda Ellerbee](#). This award was first presented on the 25th anniversary of The Gracies Gala and recognizes an individual who truly plays a key role in laying the foundation for future generations of women in the media. For an unparalleled career defined by intelligent journalism, innovative television programming, and inspirational messaging, Linda Ellerbee was chosen to receive this prestigious award.

The audience was dazzled by electrifying musical performances by [Ashlyne Huff](#) and [Kimberley Locke](#).

The Gracies Gala will air on the Hallmark Movie Channel on August 8, 2011, during prime time, then again as a daytime encore on August 12. "Alliance for Women in Media is thrilled that, for the first time, the Gracies Gala will be televised to a national audience," said AWM Chair **Valerie K. Blackburn**. "It is especially exciting to be shown on the Hallmark Movie Channel because of their commitment to high quality programming that shows realistic portrayals of strong women."

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 was made possible through the generous support of the 2011 title sponsor Dove and the following additional sponsors: Arbitron, Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc., CBS Radio, Clear Channel, Disney ABC Television Group, ESPN, Ford Motor Company Fund, Google, Harpo Radio, Katz Media Group, LMNO Productions/TLC, NAB, NBC News, NCTA, NPR, Nickelodeon/MTV Networks Kids & Family Group, Sony Pictures Television, Turner Broadcasting Group (CNN) and Wells Fargo. Sponsored tables are available by contacting Gracies Headquarters at 703-506-3290.

For more information about the 2011 Gracies, please visit www.thegracies.org. For the most up-to-date, insider information, follow the Gracie Awards on Twitter @thegracies.

[About the Alliance for Women in Media \(AWM\)](#): The Alliance for Women in Media leverages the promise, passion and power of women in all forms of media. Formerly known as American Women in Radio & Television, AWM is the longest-established professional association dedicated to advancing women in media and entertainment, and will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2011. 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 via inspired thought leadership that illuminates areas of societal need.

[About the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation](#): The Alliance for Women in Media Foundation (formerly known as The Foundation of American Women in Radio & Television) supports and promotes 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 a [radio PSA campaign](#) with the Dove Self-Esteem Fund. The Foundation also supports [Empowering America](#), an initiative which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this program, the Foundation provides *Empowering America* educational collateral to needy urban middle schools around the country. The Foundation also produces nationally acclaimed recognition programs, including the [Gracie Awards](#), a live gala that honors exemplary programming created for, by, and about women.