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THE MENSOUR AGENCY OF OTTAWA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

(OTTAWA, November 8, 2010) Often told it would never survive in the Nation's Capital, the Mensour Agency, after 25 years and 25,000 productions, is still going strong. Canada's first bilingual agency negotiates not only for actors, writers and voice artists but for journalists and producers as well. The agency prides itself on raising the bar for Canadian talent from coast to coast. *"We play hard and negotiate harder allowing talent to make a living in their chosen field,"* says Kate Mensour, President of the Mensour Agency in Ottawa. A strong advocate for the arts, Mensour continues to create work opportunities: *"Our writers and actors have participated in thousands of hours of television, film and theatre,"* she adds, *"They have received numerous Governor General Literary Awards, Trillium Awards, l'Ordre des Francophones de l'Amérique, Geminis, Gémaux and honorary doctorates."*

Watch Canadian animation and you will hear the Agency's voice artists. They have written and voiced shows from the famous *Racoons* to *Tripping the Rift* and everything in between. On prime time TV, you will hear them in national advertising campaigns; see them in made for TV movies and series and in IMAX theatres across the country. Mensour Agency actors grace not only television and screen but theatre stages across the country as well. *"It is well known throughout the business that we represent the cream of the crop. We have packaged television deals and brought productions to Ottawa that no one would have previously dared to do,"* proudly states Mensour.

The Agency's actors have appeared in hundreds of television series from *Mount Royal*, *Street Legal*, *Urban Angel* to *Mann to Mann*, *Rumours*, *Flashpoint*, *Naked Josh*, *18 to Life* and *Nikita*. In such movies as *Metal Tornado*, *The Bone Collector*, *The Score*, *Mind over Murder* and *The Boy She Met Online*, to name but a few. The Mensour Agency has assisted in the production of thousands of commercials for their corporate clients including: *L'Oréal*, *Rideau Centre*, *St Laurent Centre*, *Tartan Homes*, *Le Casino de Hull*, *GM*, *RONA*, *McDonald's Restaurants*, *Winners*, *HomeSense*, *Desjardins*, *Jean Coutu*, *BM Goodwrench*, *Cirque du Soleil*, *OASIS*, *Danone*, *Yoplait*, *Place d'Orléans*, *Vidéotron*, *SAQ*, *Standard Life*, *Mermaid Pools*, *Volkswagen*, *SAPUTO*, and *CN Rail*.

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MENSOUR AGENCY LTD. L'AGENCE MENSOUR LTÉE

41 Springfield Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1M 1C8

T: (613) 241-1677 F: (613) 241-4360

www.mensour.ca

The Agency's theatre actors, writers and directors are on stage across Europe and Canada -- from one of their first productions in the *Dragons' Trilogy* to their most recent in directing *l'Opéra de Quat'sous* in Montréal at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde. The goal of the Agency is to actively work with producers and broadcasters and to guarantee the development of thriving careers. In 1985, it sold its first television project titled *Les Rogers*. This was the first French broadcast special to be completely shot in Ottawa. Twenty years later, it sold the "bible" (that is, the synopsis, characters and scenarios) and scripts for a French TV series entitled METEO+, a comedy featuring a competing weather network. METEO+ producers were from Ottawa, but they shot four seasons in Sudbury. METEO+ created work for producers, writers, directors, cast and crew and paved the way for *Les Blues de Ramville*, which has just begun shooting its first of three seasons.

The Mensour Agency is proud to say that after 25,000 productions it is just as happy to be continuing today the innovative work it started doing 25 years ago.

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For more information please contact Catherine Mensour at 613-241-1677 or 613-290-1683 and visit the Agency's Web site at www.mensour.ca, Facebook page: Mensour Agency

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