



The Heart Truth Fashion Show

Celebrity Model Biographies

Susan Aglukark

Singer / songwriter Susan Aglukark is a unique Canadian artist and a leading voice in Canadian music. She blends the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary pop music arrangements to tell the stories of her people, the Inuit of Arctic Canada. The emotional depth and honesty of her lyrics; her pure, clear voice and themes of hope, spirit and encouragement have captivated and inspired listeners from all walks of life.

Susan's genuine concern for others combined with her political and social awareness lead many to view her as a role model. She is also rapidly becoming known as an uplifting motivational speaker, able to reach both youth and adult audiences alike. Susan has held command performances for HRH Queen Elizabeth (twice), Canadian Prime Ministers Jean Chretien and Brian Mulroney and the President of France, Jacques Chirac. She has performed for Nelson Mandela and Governor General of Canada Adrienne Clarkson as well as several other dignitaries. Equally important to her are the many, many villages across Canada and the Arctic. Most recently, Susan was invited into the Order Canada and was presented her Officer of the Order of Canada award in September of 2005 for her contribution both musically and as a workshop facilitator and mentor in the aboriginal community.

Awards include: three Juno Awards and several Juno nominations presented by C.A.R.A.S. (Canadian Association of Recording Arts & Sciences); the first-ever Aboriginal Achievement Award in Arts and Entertainment, and the Canadian Country Music Association's (CCMA) Vista Rising Star Award, along with several other CCMA nominations. Susan's albums, *Arctic Rose*, *Christmas*, *This Child*, *Unsung Heroes* and *Big Feeling* have sold over 400,000 copies in Canada to date.

Susan has her sights set on touring her upcoming new album (for release in March 2006) and the continuation of her activist work. Susan says she never strays far from her roots or the people of Arctic Canada where she grew up; her ultimate message, "to learn to be yourself and believe in that person" reaches much further and touches all people everywhere.

...more





Eva Avila

19 year-old Eva Avila was raised in Gatineau, Quebec by her Quebecois mother and Peruvian father. As a child, her father had a recording studio in the basement of the home and it wasn't long before Eva was knocking on the door to put her voice on tape for the first time. By the time she was seven, she had progressed to recording covers of pop and show tunes in the basement studio.

Eva continued to hone her stage skills as she entered her teens by performing at countless community events including high-school assemblies, Latin festivals and regional TV shows. At 16, she decided to enter her first high-profile singing competition and ended up taking the title in the prestigious, province-wide Jeune Diva du Quebec. Despite all of her local success, Eva was surprisingly hesitant to enter when the Canadian Idol auditions rolled into Ottawa in the summer of 2006. During the course of the Canadian Idol competition, Eva had a chance to interact with many elite members of the record industry. Some of those individuals contributed to Eva's debut album Somewhere Else including Chantal Kreviazuk and Cyndi Lauper.

Chantal penned Eva's driving first single, "Meant to Fly," which quickly reached #1 on the single sales charts after being released following Eva's Idol triumph. The song was a perfect match for Eva's soaring vocals and the words of the song resonated perfectly with her Idol experience.

...more



Jeanne Beker

Born in Toronto, Jeanne Beker began her career in show business at the age of 16 and since then has never looked back. A mother of two teenage girls and fashion guru extraordinaire, today, Jeanne is one of the most iconic and influential women in the fashion industry both here at home and around the world.

With numerous different acting and hosting gigs behind her, Jeanne jumped at the chance to host fashion television in 1985, which became the station's most widely syndicated show, with viewers across Canada and in over 120 countries across the globe. Today, *FT* is still the most accessible fashion program in the world!

Never one to rest for too long, Jeanne is the editor-in-chief for *FQ Magazine* and *SIR Magazine* and a regular featured columnist with *The Globe and Mail* – Canada's National Newspaper. She also co-executive produces the documentary *Cover Stories* (airing on *FashionTelevisionChannel*), which gives viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the business side of running her magazines.

Jeanne is also a published author with her autobiography *Jeanne Unbottled: Adventures in High Style*, *The Big Night Out* (her first book for young adults who want to look their best) and *Passion for Fashion: Careers in Style* (a comprehensive career guide for those who dream of breaking into the fashion industry due out Spring of 2008). Jeanne's design credits include a limited time only clothing line launched in 2001 at Eaton's department stores across Canada, followed by a line of body wear (titled *Inside Out*), sold exclusively at Sears Canada in the fall of 2003.

Jeanne is also a judge on *Canada's Next Top Model*, a popular Canadian reality series in which aspiring model hopefuls are taught the ins and outs of the modeling world, as they compete for the grand prize. Jeanne also adds Style Correspondent to her resume, sharing her passion for fashion and insider industry knowledge with recurring spots on CTV's *Canada AM* and *eTalk*.

Recognized by numerous organizations for her ongoing community involvement and influence in the fashion world, Jeanne was highly praised by Fashion Group International for her impact on the fashion industry and accepted the Vantage Women of Originality Award (awarded to women who are pioneers in their chosen field). She was also the recipient of the Variety Club Diamond Award and received the prestigious Crystal Jury Award in 2006 from Women in Film and Television, for her exceptional achievements in Canadian television. Past Honorary Chair of Toronto's Annual Fashion Cares, Jeanne currently sits on the honorary board for Gilda's Club.

...more



Charmaine Crooks

Chosen as one of the “Top 50 Women of Power” in the country, five-time Olympian and 1984 Olympic silver medallist Charmaine Crooks has represented Canadian athletics for almost 20 years. As the first Canadian woman to run 800 metres in under two minutes, Crooks won gold medals at the Pan American, Commonwealth, World Cup and World Student Games. She had the honour of being named Flag Bearer at the Opening Ceremonies of the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games.

Since 1994, Crooks has been President/Founder of NGU Consultants, a sports marketing, management and consulting company, which provides strategic counsel and growth strategies to major corporations on a national and global basis.

Crooks is actively involved in numerous Olympic committees, both on a national and international scale. As an elected member of the IOC, Crooks was instrumental in developing the IOC’s Code of Ethics. In 2006, the committee awarded her the “IOC Women in Sport Trophy” for her longstanding contributions to promoting women in sport.

As a current elected member of the Executive Board of the Canadian Olympic Committee, she played an integral role in Toronto's 2008 Olympic Bid in the areas of International Relations and Communications, and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Her latest project is consulting with Bell Canada to develop and implement their 2010 Olympic Athlete Programs as part of their commitment as Premier National Partner of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. In 2007, she was elected vice-president of the executive committee of the World Olympians Association.

She is also a tireless supporter of various local and global charities focusing on youth, women and health- related matters. These include the Athlete-driven “Right to Play” and other humanitarian initiatives, special projects and events. In 2007, she was chosen to be the national spokesperson for the Pfizer-sponsored educational campaign, NepKnowMore, to raise public awareness for neuropathic pain.

A television personality for over 15 years, Crooks has worked with CBC, TSN, CTV, Fox Sportsnet and European TV as an analyst, host or commentator on a number of sports and variety programs. She was the host of CBC's “Cycle” the first Canadian TV show on recreational cycling, and also co-hosted the nation-wide show, “In the Company of Women.” She continues to host the annual internationally televised award- winning “World Athletics” Gala from Monaco.



Charmaine Crooks, con't.

As a producer, in 1995, she created the comic relief-style TV special, "No Laughing Matter" which raised awareness for Breast Cancer and aired on the Comedy Network, and was consulting producer on the award winning "Champions Zone." Her company is currently consulting with several other production companies with works in progress.

A sought-after keynote speaker, she appears at national and international conferences and corporate meetings/retreats for a variety of major organizations. Her topics range from goal-setting, team-building and the Olympic movement.

...more



Veronique DiCaire

Veronique Dicaire is known for her beautiful voice and immense talent, but many are not familiar with her heart disease. When she was only 4 years old, Veronic was diagnosed with tachycardia supraventricular, which meant that she would have rapid heart beats that restrained her from playing and living like other children. Thanks to research, she was able to get operated on at 21 years old and this changed her life and has let her become the successful artist that she is today. Outside of her professional career, Veronic, now 30, is now a spokesperson for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Quebec.

...more



Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau

Sophisticated, intelligent and passionate, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau has a unique ability to get to the heart of every story, and easily identifies with the human side of every person that she interviews. As *eTalk*'s Quebec Correspondent, Grégoire-Trudeau provides comprehensive coverage of Quebec-based celebrities and stories, but also takes interest in the social causes celebrities take on.

Fluently bilingual, Sophie was an entertainment reporter for the daily Showbiz segment on LCN. She also contributed to entertainment segments on *Salut Bonjour Weekend*, and *Clin D'Oeil* and *Bec et Museau* for TVA. As well, she co-hosted *Escales de Rêves* on Canal Évasion and hosted Canal Z's *Teksho*, a series about the interaction of show business and technology. She also co-hosted morning shows on CKMF Radio and contributed to the daily program, *Coup de Pouce*, on Radio-Canada.

Grégoire-Trudeau studied Commerce at McGill University and attended the Université de Montréal, earning a BA in Communications. She then worked for three years in advertising, sales and public relations before studying radio and television.

Sometimes as the subject of entertainment headlines herself, Sophie has adjusted to the spotlight gracefully since she married Justin Trudeau in 2005. In 2006, she was back in the headlines again, but as a spokesperson for the BACA Foundation, which supports the BACA eating-disorder clinic in Quebec. She also made headlines when visiting one of the world's poorest nations. Her trip to Ethiopia, together with mother-in-law Margaret Trudeau, helped to provide clean water to those most in need. Their journey was documented in a CTV special dubbed "A Window Opens: Margaret and Sophie in Ethiopia. An idealist and an optimist, she wants to change the world one day at a time.

...more



Larysa Harapyn

Born and raised in Toronto, Larysa grew up in a family with mixed languages, religions and cultures. A former model, Larysa resisted the runways of Paris and stayed in Toronto to focus on her education. While studying at York University, Larysa did some freelance television reporting and she hasn't looked back. After landing a job with CP24, it wasn't long before Larysa became an entertainment reporter for Star, in 1999. Larysa is a Red Carpet veteran and has interviewed some of the biggest names in Hollywood. As part of the *CityNews* team, Larysa delivers the glitz, the glam, the biz and the buzz on the world's most exciting business.

...more



Cheryl Hickey

As host of Canada's pre-eminent entertainment news magazine, Cheryl Hickey gets up close and personal with some of the hottest celebs around. From the *ET Canada* set in Toronto to the Bahamas, Las Vegas and L.A., Cheryl criss-crosses North America to give viewers an intimate look into the entertainment world.

Born on January 8 (the same birthday as Elvis) in Owen Sound, Ontario, Cheryl grew up always being interested in entertaining. At the age of 15, after landing a volunteer gig at a local cable station in the "metropolis" of Owen Sound, Cheryl knew broadcast journalism was her calling. She spent the summer pulling cable, running the teleprompter, hosting public service announcements and even reporting on local events for the station's community magazine.

After graduating from the Broadcast Journalism Television-Radio Program at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario, Cheryl landed her first gig at The Mix 106.5 in Owen Sound as the summer events reporter/city hall reporter/news anchor.

Her real passion was in television and after a year and a half, she joined the team at the New VR in Barrie as a writer for the 6PM news. With a constant craving to perfect her gig, Cheryl learned the ins and outs of the broadcast industry – from operating a camera to editing and producing, and the ultimate challenge... on-air hosting.

In the summer of 2005, Cheryl, along with hundreds of hopefuls from all over North America auditioned for an on-air position with Global Television's "new entertainment show." Already working at the network as the entertainment reporter for the local news, Cheryl recalls, "I would see these amazing people come in and think, 'ok, I don't have a chance.'"

After weeks of grueling auditions, Cheryl received the callback to come in and meet with Global Television's senior executive producers and landed the gig! "I was speechless," she recalls after she was offered the job. "Then I was told it was for *Entertainment Tonight Canada*."

...more



Heather Hiscox

Heather Hiscox brings fresh energy and diverse experience to her position as host of *CBC News: Morning*.

Based in Toronto as a reporter for *CBC News: The National* for three years, Heather has also traveled abroad, covering international stories for the program. She was on hand for the U.S. election night in 2004, reporting live from Florida. A few months later, she returned to Florida to cover the Terri Schiavo 'right-to-die' story. She has also worked extensively out of CBC's Washington and London, England bureaus.

On the domestic political front, Heather tracked down Chuck Guite, a central figure in the 2005 sponsorship scandal, in Phoenix, Arizona. She captured the exclusive first images of him on a horseback ride, at his winter holiday destination. Also, she led CBC's Olympic coverage in Athens, Greece in the summer of 2004, and in Turin, Italy in 2006, reporting nightly from the games.

Heather began her broadcasting career in 1982, when, at the age of 17, she worked as a disc jockey in her hometown of Owen Sound, Ontario. She continued her career on the airwaves throughout university. After graduating, Heather hosted radio programs in London, Ontario before moving into television journalism in 1991. She has worked both as reporter and anchor in southwestern Ontario, Halifax and Montreal.

Heather graduated from the University of Toronto in French language and translation, and holds a Masters degree in journalism from the University of Western Ontario.

...more



Robin Kay

Robin Kay, president of the Fashion Design Council of Canada (FDCC), has 25 years' experience in the world of fashion. With no formal training in fashion design, but a natural business sense, Robin began in 1976 with a high-end fashion retail chain called Robin Kay Clothing Company. Over a period of 25 years, Robin opened a total of 18 retail stores while wholesaling her designs to over 600 accounts throughout the United States.

Having achieved phenomenal success with her designs and retail business, Robin began looking for new challenges. She had personally experienced the difficulties of trying to make it as a designer in Canada and recognized the need for an organization with the sole purpose of promoting and mobilizing Canadian fashion on an international stage. In 1999, Robin decided that it was time to make that change, so she divested her chain of stores and joined the Fashion Design Council of Canada. As an international ambassador for Canada's fashion industry, Robin leads the FDCC in the organization of L'Oréal Fashion Week in Toronto.

...more



Tanya Kim

As the co-host of *eTalk*, Tanya Kim confesses that she inhales and exhales pop culture. Having interviewed such musical icons as David Bowie, Janet Jackson, Diddy, Jennifer Lopez, Kanye West, Coldplay and Cher, talking music and entertainment is effortless for Kim.

Classically trained as a pianist and dancer, the broadcast journalism graduate started her TV career at MuchMusic. Kim went on to become the music reporter for CTV's *The Chatroom*, then became the special correspondent for the first two seasons of *Canadian Idol*, reporting on music and style from several of the regional auditions.

Kim's role as co-host of *eTalk* has given her many exciting opportunities, including hosting red carpet events at the *JUNO Awards*, *Canada's Walk of Fame*, the *Oscars*, and hanging backstage with the artists at *Live 8 Canada*. In 2005, TV Guide ranked Kim second in a list of "Canada's Top 10 newcomers on the verge of a major breakout." Aside from her work with *eTalk*, Kim has also appeared in *Puppets Who Kill*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, *Instant Star* and the film *Glitter*.

In July 2007, Kim reported live from London during both the *Concert for Diana* and *Live Earth* events. In August 2005, Kim hosted *eTalk Playlist*, a six-episode chart show/concert mini-series that expands on *eTalk*'s popular *Playlist* segment.

Kim's passion for music and pop culture is what brought her to *eTalk*, but Kim also wants to share her love for music with Canada's youth through her role at MusiCan, an organization that provides instruments to schools across the country.

...more



Kristina Maticic

Kristina Maticic is one of the creators, hosts and executive producers of the TV show, *The Shopping Bags* on Canada's W Network and Fine Living in the U.S. Now in its seventh season, this award-winning show provides viewers with everything they need to know before they buy.

Kristina has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia and a Masters in Journalism from the University of Southern California. She spent six years at Global TV's Vancouver station, first as an overnight news anchor and eventually as the news anchor and producer of the *11:30 Newscast*. While at Global, Anna and Kristina hatched "The Shopping Bags" concept, and the pair has been testing products and investigating consumer trends ever since.

Anna and Kristina are now the media's go-to experts for all things shopping. They have made regular guest appearances on *Good Morning America*, *The Rachael Ray Show*, *Canada AM* and *CBC Newsworld*. In addition to a syndicated column in the U.S, their work has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including *InStyle*, *Glow* and *TV Week*.

The Shopping Bags has won numerous Leo awards and two Gemini award nominations. Anna and Kristina are co-authors of the show's companion book, [The Shopping Bags: Tips, Tricks and Inside Information to Make You a Savvy Shopper](#) (Dutton; August 2005).

...more



Catherine O'Hara

Catherine O'Hara first got into acting, writing, improvising, and directing with Toronto's Second City Theatre. She then created the comedy show "SCTV," which became incredibly successful, winning O'Hara an Emmy Award and four additional Emmy nominations for her writing on the show.

O'Hara won the 2007 National Board of Review Award for Supporting Actress for her work in Christopher Guest's comedy, *For Your Consideration*. She has also worked with Guest as a member of the ensemble casts of *A Mighty Wind*, *Best in Show*, and *Waiting for Guffman*. Catherine has also been cast as voices for characters in *Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Over the Hedge*, and *Monster House*.

Her earlier film work includes *After Hours*, *Heartburn*, *Beetlejuice*, and the first two *Home Alone* movies. O'Hara also worked on *Home Fries*, *The Life Before This*, *Orange County*, *Last of the High Kings*, and *Game 6*. She can currently be seen in *Penelope* alongside Reese Witherspoon and and Christina Ricci and will soon be heard in Spike Jonzes' *Where the Wild Things Are*.

...more



Nicole Oliver

Nicole Oliver is a performer to watch. Nicole has had roles in feature films and telefilms. She has worked on many movies of the week for most of the major networks, including the lead in ABC Family Channel's *I Want to Marry Ryan Banks*. *The Falling*, written and directed by Raul Sanchez Inglis marked Nicole's first lead role in a feature film. From vixen to victim, from conquest to conqueror, the role of Karis gave Nicole an incredible opportunity to strut her acting chops. This award-winning, inventive psychological drama played at various film festivals around the globe, most notably the Chicago and Toronto International Film Festival.

Most recently, Nicole was nominated for a Leo Award for her supporting lead role performance as Lori Towers in Rampage Entertainment's golf reunion comedy '*The Foursome*'. Starring beside Kevin Dillon (*Poseidon*, Golden Globe®-nominated series *Entourage* on HBO).

Nicole believes that diversification is the key to success in the entertainment industry and with that in mind, she has signed on to host the fifth season of Slice Network's successful TV series *Crash Test Mommy*. Nicole's empathy, coupled with her wicked sense of humour, make her the perfect companion to any mom who's out to prove her worth.

Most recently, Nicole worked with producer Stan Lee, *Spider Man*, *X-Men*, starring as Agent Newell in the recently released to DVD animation movie *Mosaic* along side Anna Paquin as Maggie Nelson *The Squid and the Whale*, *Almost Famous*. *Stormhawks* is Nicole's next big animation series coming out this fall 2007, signed for two seasons on YTV in Canada and the Cartoon Network in the US, UK, France and Latin America.

Nicole attended York University and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours. She continued her studies in London and Oxford at the prestigious British American Dramatic Academy, an institution that is affiliated with Yale University. Nicole is married to Chris Ainscough, an award winning composer in the film industry. They live in Vancouver with their proudest achievements to date, their two sons William and Grady.

...more



Lorie Racicot

Lorie was crowned Miss Canada 2008, and it is with pride and humility that she takes on this new role. With a great zest for life, Lorie is intense and focused in all areas and appreciates a good challenge.

Born and raised in Joliette, a little town near Montreal, Lorie, who is now 24 years old, works as a medical electrophysiology technologist at the Sacré-Coeur Hospital of Montreal. Along with performing cardiology exams at her work, she also works with the Foundation of Heart Disease in Quebec to help raise awareness around the fact that cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death among women.

...more



Sandie Rinaldo

Sandie Rinaldo has been anchoring *CTV National News* on weekends since 1985. In 2004, Rinaldo took on the additional duties of co-hosting *W-FIVE* with veteran news anchor, Lloyd Robertson. She has been a backup to Robertson on the weeknight edition of *CTV National News* since 1981.

In addition to her *W-FIVE* co-hosting duties, Rinaldo continues to be a contributing reporter for the program. Rinaldo is also the reporter/producer of a segment called *A Sandie Rinaldo Success Story* seen on *CTV National News with Lloyd Robertson*.

She came to CTV in 1973 one week after graduating from York University, where she earned an Honours B.A. in Fine Arts. In that first year, she jumped from Junior Secretary to Production Secretary to Production Manager, then becoming a researcher for *W-FIVE*. In 1975 she went to New York City with the team and helped produce *The Bankruptcy of New York*, which won a journalism award.

Rinaldo bounded through the glass ceiling every time she came up against it. In 1976, she joined *Canada AM* as a story producer and specialized in federal and provincial politics. In 1977, she was appointed reporter-at-large for *Canada AM*, a position that saw her regularly traveling everywhere from Vancouver to Cape Breton to the Middle East.

By 1980, Rinaldo had joined a slowly expanding circle of women in the profession, setting precedents as she went. She was promoted to news anchor of *Canada AM* and became the first woman in Canadian history to anchor a daily network newscast. In 1985, she was appointed anchor of the *CTV Weekend National News at 11 p.m.* and assumed a senior editorial role.

...more



Nancy Robertson

Nancy Robertson always knew what she wanted to do with her life. From putting on plays in her neighbour's yard to getting kicked out of the school library for performing for the amusement of classmates, Nancy knew she wanted to act.

Born and raised in Vancouver, B.C, Nancy studied drama all through high school and later attended the Breck Academy and The Vancouver Arts Club Theatre Program, as well as various workshops in Los Angeles.

She started her career in live theatre, starring in numerous Fringe plays and winning a BC Drama Fest Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Standing On My Knees*. She expanded into the world of television with varied and diverse roles on such programs as *Dead like Me*, *The Addams Family*, Showtime's *Beggars and Choosers*, *Hollywood Off-ramp* on the E Channel, and as a series regular on Fox TV's *Los Luchadoras* to name just a few. As well, she lent her talents to several movies-of-the-week.

Some feature films include *Air Bud*, *Are We There Yet* and as the hilarious loose cannon Harriet in the award winning film *The Delicate Art of Parking*, a role which earned her a Leo Award nomination as Best Supporting Actress. She also has a love of independent film, having appeared in such shorts as *Mall Man* and *Organ Music*.

Nancy has been nominated for two other Leo Awards for her role as the brilliantly booksmart, but socially stunted *Wanda* on *Corner Gas*. Nancy's work as *Wanda* also earned her a Canadian Comedy Award nomination. As a member of the *Corner Gas* ensemble cast, she has also been nominated for a Gemini and an International Emmy Award.

Nancy still makes her home in Vancouver, and when the mood strikes her, she drops in and plays with the renowned improv company, Vancouver Theatresports, where she has been a popular mainstage player for quite some time and a member of the winning team at the International Improv Tournament on several occasions.

...more



Beverly Thomson

One of Canada's most-respected personalities, Beverly Thomson is the co-host of Canada's most-watched national morning show.

Thomson began her career in radio and moved into television as a reporter and anchor for CFTO-TV, now CTV Toronto, the flagship station of the CTV Television Network. She then moved to Global Television as their supper-hour news anchor at 5:30pm and 6pm. Her warmth and charm has attracted immense audiences to the various newscasts that she has anchored, including news specials and election coverage.

With more than 20 years of news experience as a broadcast journalist in radio and television, Thomson is passionate about the media's role in society. She believes that her role as a broadcaster carries with it a responsibility to give back to the community. She publicly announced her battle with breast cancer and became a spokesperson for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation in Ontario.

An alumni member of Seneca College, Thomson is married with two children, and is an active community volunteer. In addition to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, she works with the Mukibaum Association, the Rouge Valley Hospital Foundation and the Charles H. Best Diabetes Foundation, as well as serving on the Seneca College Board of Advisors for Broadcast and Communications Curriculum. In recognition of her efforts, Thomson recently received the 2006 Gemini Humanitarian Award for her public service and work in the community.

...more



Anna Wallner

Anna Wallner is one of the creators, hosts and executive producers of the TV show, *The Shopping Bags* on Canada's W Network and Fine Living in the U.S. After 205 episodes, this award-winning series provides viewers with everything they need to know before they buy.

Born in Toronto, Anna received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia before completing the graduate journalism program at the University of King's College in Halifax. In 1994, she returned to Vancouver to begin her television career as a reporter for Global News in Vancouver. She spent two years as the bureau chief of Global's Fraser Valley News Bureau and then moved back to the Vancouver office as anchor and reporter of Global's "Your Health" news segment. Anna was voted Broadcaster of Tomorrow by the BC Broadcasters Association in 1999 and in 2000 she was nominated for a prestigious Webster award for her work as a health reporter.

Anna and her business partner and co-host Kristina Maticic came up with the idea for *The Shopping Bags* in 1999 and have been working as consumer advocates ever since. *The Shopping Bags* has won eight Leo awards and two Gemini award nominations. Outside the show, Anna and Kristina maintain an extensive website that includes their product reviews and shopping tips and they write for numerous publications across North America. They are also co-authors of the book, *The Shopping Bags: Tips, Tricks and Inside Information to Make You a Savvy Shopper* (Dutton; August 2005).

Anna and Kristina are regular contributors to various television programs, including *Good Morning America* and *The Rachael Ray Show* in the U.S.

Anna also loves to ski, travel, cook and of course, shop!

...more



Mary Walsh

Mary Walsh wrote, created and starred in the critically acclaimed multi- award-winning series *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, which is still wildly popular in its 15th year. She co-created, starred and wrote the Gemini Award-winning sketch comedy show *CODCO* and recently created the short-lived but much-loved show *Hatching Matching and Dispatching*, in which she also starred. Ms. Walsh is the winner of innumerable Gemini Awards both for her writing and her many performances.

Ms. Walsh can be seen this year in the made-for-TV-movie, *The Quality of Life*, for DaVinci's inquest producer Chris Haddock. She recently appeared in two Lifetime made-for-TV movies, *Matters of Life and Dating* and *Gossip* and can soon be seen in a guest- starring role for the new critically acclaimed CBC comedy, *Sophie*.

Ms. Walsh continues to be dedicated to the production, direction and writing of Canadian film. Her selected credits include, *Young Triffie's Been Made Away With*, *Bailey's Billion\$*, *Geraldine's Fortune*, *Mambo Italiano* and *The New Waterford Girl*.

Despite her busy film and television schedule, Ms. Walsh still continues to support charitable organizations all across Canada such as the CNIB, Oxfam, Pride Toronto, and a host of others dedicated to social justice.