



**MIRA SORVINO, DONALD SUTHERLAND AND ROBERT CARLYLE STAR IN
THE LIFETIME ORIGINAL MINISERIES
“HUMAN TRAFFICKING,”**

**A CHILLING PORTRAYAL OF TODAY’S GLOBAL SEX SLAVE TRADE
AND THE DESPERATE FIGHT TO SAVE ITS COUNTLESS VICTIMS**

Robert Halmi, Sr. Executive Produces Lifetime Television’s First Miniseries

**Building on Lifetime’s Emmy® Award-Winning
Public Awareness Campaign, “Stop Violence Against Women,”
Network Joins Forces With Leading Lawmakers and Nonprofit Organizations
to Combat Sex Trafficking**

Academy Award® and Golden Globe® Award-winning actress Mira Sorvino (“Mighty Aphrodite,” “Romy & Michele’s High School Reunion”), Golden Globe® and Emmy® Award-winning actor Donald Sutherland (“M*A*S*H,” “Citizen X”) and BAFTA Award®-winning actor Robert Carlyle (“Hitler: The Rise of Evil,” “The Full Monty”) star in the two-part LIFETIME Original Miniseries **“Human Trafficking,”** a tough, uncompromising drama about the brutal realities behind the international trafficking of women and children for sex, and the battle to rescue its victims enslaved in America.

The four-hour miniseries unfolds through the stories of a rookie Department of Homeland Security ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agent on the trail of a deadly criminal kingpin, two Eastern European women forced into sex slavery and trafficked into the United States against their will and the horrifying ordeal of an American teenage girl kidnapped off the streets of Manila for sale into sex slavery. **Part I of “Human Trafficking” premieres Monday, October 24 at 9PM (ET/PT) followed by Part II on Tuesday, October 25 at 9PM (ET/PT) on LIFETIME Television.**

The Power of Television

“Human trafficking is an international epidemic that affects all of us,” Executive Producer Robert Halmi, Sr. said. “This miniseries has a great script and an outstanding cast that will bring this important issue to audiences that may not have even known of the existence of this problem. I hope it will expose human trafficking, raise awareness, and lead to more involvement.”

“I’m grateful to Lifetime Television for their commitment to the women and girls IJM rescues from trafficking, slavery and violence,” Founder and President, International Justice Mission, Gary Haugen said. “They use the medium of television to powerfully portray the dignity and plight of these victims in a way that motivates people to action.”

Director Christian Duguay described how urgently people need to know about trafficking in America as well as around the world. “This is a problem that is happening all around us,” Duguay said. “We know about prostitution, but when you do the research you discover that

hundreds of thousands of women and children are trafficked as sex slaves. They are forced into this devastating life under the threat of violence or death to them or their loved ones by the traffickers. It’s a difficult and dark subject, and we wanted to sensitize people to the existence of sex trafficking while at the same time bring them on a compelling emotional journey.”

“Human Trafficking” – The First Night

In Part I, destitute young women dreaming of a better life are lured by promises of marriage or jobs to leave their native countries, then are violently forced into prostitution, too terrified by their violent captors to seek help. From Helena (Isabelle Blais), a single mother in Prague seduced by romance, to 16-year-old Nadia (Laurence Leboeuf) in Kiev, thrilled that she has been hired for a modeling job abroad, they arrive in America only to be forced into working in brothels owned by Sergei Karpovich (Carlyle), a ruthless crime boss whose legitimate business fronts a worldwide sex trafficking network.

After she sees another young trafficked girl commit suicide, Russian-born NYPD detective Kate Morozov (Sorvino) convinces ICE agent Bill Meehan (Sutherland) to let her join his office in the war against trafficking. When Kate goes on a bust at a beauty parlor that is secretly a front for a working brothel of trafficked women, she takes Helena into custody and eventually learns Sergei’s identity, but Helena is gunned down before she can testify. In the meantime, Nadia’s worried father, Viktor (Rémy Girard), starts searching for his missing daughter in Kiev. Simultaneously, halfway around the world, the Gray family is visiting Manila when 12-year-old Annie (Sarah-Jeanne Labrosse) is abducted. Her devastated mother, Samantha (Emma Campbell), learns that Tommy (Vlasta Vrana), a sex trafficker affiliated with Sergei, has taken her daughter to fill a “special order.” Back in New York, Kate’s case against Sergei falls apart when Helena is killed while in ICE custody.

“Human Trafficking” – The Second Night

In Part II, Kate is forced to re-build her case against Sergei from the ground-up, having lost her only witness willing to testify. Challenged by her superiors to “find a way,” Kate goes undercover as a mail-order bride to try and infiltrate the trafficking network. Meanwhile in Manila, officials are led to Tommy’s lair where Annie is being held, but he is tipped off and rushes to get Annie and other trafficked children hidden in containers and shipped for transit. Back in New York, one of Sergei’s thugs takes the bait and responds to Kate’s mail-order bride ad, posing as a potential suitor. Kate arrives at the airport with Sergei’s newest trafficked victims and is then taken to a New Jersey strip club. Sergei sees through Kate’s cover and almost kills her before Meehan’s men raid the club, but in the midst of the chaotic raid, Sergei manages to escape. At the last moment, Manila police frantically comb the harbor searching for any sign of the children as a drugged and dehydrated Annie clings to life.

Cast & Crew Speak Out Against Modern Day Slavery

“It’s a truly gripping and fascinating human drama about the way predatory criminals take advantage of women in economically disadvantaged countries and force them into prostitution,” Sorvino said, “often while corrupt officials look the other way.”

“They are ordinary girls who’ve been stolen from their lives. They’re brutalized and kept in basements like slaves. Their lives are a living hell. They are citizens of nowhere; they have no money and usually only live about four years,” Sorvino declared. “Ultimately, this is a film for everyone to see. I’m very proud to be a part of this project.”

Carlyle believes families in particular need to realize how important the movie’s subject is. “I think anyone who has children should watch it,” Carlyle said. “Certainly anyone with teenage children should see it, because this kind of stuff is around the corner. It’s not something that is happening way off in a distant land—it’s going on right underneath our noses.”

Sutherland also raised the question of social responsibility. “This story needs to be told because nobody knows about it,” Sutherland said. “It’s a denial of human rights that affects all of us. These people have no identities. They’re bought and sold every day. It’s modern-day slavery that needs everybody’s attention.”

“The statistics are staggering,” Screenwriter Agatha Dominik said. “The United States government estimates that up to 800,000 people annually are taken from their homes and trafficked across international borders, and approximately 16,000 of them are trafficked into the United States each year. When I was doing the research, I was completely shocked that people would solicit these women who are enslaved and abused,” Dominik continued. “The whole misconception that these young girls somehow willingly became prostitutes is the most painful thing. It’s a vicious circle of silence that must be broken. Hopefully, viewers will understand that and realize they can help.”

Duguay was moved by the terrifying loss of self-esteem in the victims of trafficking. “I wanted to tapestry the movie with a sense of hope, that life is worth living,” Duguay said. “Our main characters try to restore self-respect in these women, to get them to see themselves through another prism. That’s also the message behind the film.”

LIFETIME: Moving Beyond the Airwaves

As part of the Network’s Emmy Award®-winning campaign *Our Lifetime Commitment: Stop Violence Against Women*, Lifetime was committed to developing an original miniseries to shine light on stories of women and girls forced into modern-day slavery. The miniseries was informed by two years of extensive consultations with leading non-profit organizations and experts on how best to raise awareness of the problem. In order to further ensure an accurate portrayal of this difficult topic, the miniseries’ producers received the assistance of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) arranged through the first Department of Homeland Security multimedia agreement.

In addition to informing the content of the miniseries, Lifetime turned to the foremost non-profits in the field to partner in educational outreach and advocacy. “What Lifetime is doing to raise awareness about human trafficking is not only a brave step, it presents this global crisis in a dramatic and intelligent way,” said Taina Bien-Aime, Executive Director, Equality Now, one of Lifetime’s non-profit partners involved in the advocacy. “Breaking the silence is always the first step toward positive social change, and this series is another sterling example of Lifetime’s efforts in highlighting violence against women.”

Additional non-profit partners involved in the outreach include: Amnesty International USA, Entertainment Industries Council, International Justice Mission, National Coalition Against

Domestic Violence, National Domestic Violence Hotline, Polaris Project, Tahirih Justice Center, Vital Voices Global Partnership, Women’s Funding Network, and many more. Working with these partners, Lifetime will use the miniseries as a platform to raise awareness by:

- Airing PSAs at the conclusion of each night of the miniseries, featuring star Mira Sorvino and other experts sharing facts about human trafficking and encouraging viewers to get more information at lifetimetv.com.
- Developing a special educational viewers’ guide that will also be available online at lifetimetv.com which provides facts about trafficking, and offers viewers opportunities to get involved in the fight to end trafficking.
- Working with bi-partisan Members of Congress, such as U.S. Representatives Deborah Pryce (R-OH) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), to support important legislation, including the “End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005,” aimed at further strengthening U.S. laws, providing law enforcement with better tools to fight sex trafficking and assisting victims, and the “International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005,” which will address the abuse of foreign women by U.S. men they meet through international marriage brokers (IMBs).
- Co-hosting high-profile, advance screenings in New York City and Washington, DC, with the United Nations Department of Public Information and the International Labour Organization, to start dialogues and raise awareness with important thought leaders.
- Initiating college outreach including campus screenings and discussion sessions on college campuses across the country, including Harvard University and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

“Human Trafficking” is produced by For Sale Productions, Inc. (“Muse”) for LIFETIME Television. Executive Producer is Robert Halmi, Sr. (“The Lion in Winter,” “Mitch Albom’s The Five People You Meet in Heaven”). Christian Duguay (LIFETIME’s “Lies My Mother Told Me,” “Joan of Arc,” “Hitler”) directs from a teleplay by Carol Doyle (“Veronica Guerin,” “Washington Square”) and Agatha Dominik (“The Sum of All Men,” “I Know This Much is True”). Story by Carol Doyle.

LIFETIME is the leader in women’s television and one of the top-rated basic cable television networks. A diverse, multi-media company, LIFETIME is committed to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming and advocating a wide range of issues affecting women and their families. Launched in 1984, LIFETIME Television serves over 89 million households nationwide. In 1998, LIFETIME launched Lifetime Movie Network, now in more than 45 million homes, and in 2001, Lifetime Real Women. LIFETIME Television, Lifetime Movie Network, Lifetime Real Women, Lifetime Radio for Women, Lifetime Home Entertainment and Lifetime Online are part of LIFETIME Entertainment Services, a 50/50 joint venture of The Hearst Corporation and The Walt Disney Company.

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