



For Immediate Release

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THE WEST SIDE NAMED BEST DRAMA SERIES FOR THE 12th ANNUAL WEBBY AWARDS

NEW YORK, NEW YORK – MAY 6, 2008 - The 12th Annual Webby Awards today named *The West Side* as Best Drama Series of 2008. The show is self-produced by co-creators Ryan Bilborrow-Koo and Zachary Lieberman.

Described as an “Urban Western,” *The West Side* transforms contemporary New York City into a unique, alternate universe by melding together elements from two disparate film genres: the grit of an urban setting with the tradition of the American Western. Presented in episodic form on the Internet at <http://thewestside.tv>, the show is written, directed, produced, shot, edited, and designed by Bilborrow-Koo and Lieberman.

“This award is a perfect example of the opportunity the Internet represents for truly independent filmmakers to showcase their abilities,” said Bilborrow-Koo. Added Lieberman, “for the judges to recognize the quality and ambition of our show is a great honor.”

Bilborrow-Koo and Lieberman will be honored at the star-studded Webby Film & Video Awards in New York City on June 9th.

Hailed as the “Oscars of the Internet” by the *New York Times*, The Webby Awards is the leading international award honoring excellence on the Internet, including Websites, interactive advertising, online film and video, and mobile Websites. The Webby Awards is presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, a 550-person judging academy whose members include Internet co-inventor Vinton Cerf, R/GA’s Chief Bob Greenberg, “Simpson’s” creator Matt Groening, Arianna Huffington, and Harvey Weinstein.

“The Webby Awards honors the very best of the Internet,” said David-Michel Davies, executive director of The Webby Awards. “The West Side’s win is a testament to the skill, ingenuity, and vision of its creators.”

The 12th Annual Webby Awards received a record 9,500 entries from over 60 countries and all 50 states.

Founded in 1996, The Webby Awards are known worldwide for its famous five-word speech limit. Past headline-grabbing speechmakers include Al Gore (“Please don’t recount this vote”), Beastie Boys (“Can anyone fix my computer?”), and Prince (“Everything you think is true.”)

About The West Side:

The West Side is an urban western, created by Ryan Bilborrow-Koo and Zachary Lieberman. The show is presented free on the Internet at <http://thewestside.tv> in roughly eight-minute installments; the first episode was posted July 4, 2007. The web site itself was also designed and developed by Bilborrow-Koo and Lieberman; collectively, the site and show are the first project to be developed under the banner of Bilborrow-Koo and Lieberman's new-media production company, Exit Strategy.

About The Webby Awards:

Hailed as the "the Internet's highest honor" by the New York Times, The Webby Awards is the leading international award honoring excellence on the Internet, including Websites, interactive advertising, online film and video, and mobile web sites. Established in 1996, the 12th Annual Webby Awards received a record 9,500 entries from all 50 states and over 60 countries worldwide. The Webby Awards is presented by [The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences](#). Sponsors and Partners of The Webby Awards include: Adobe; The Creative Group; Nokia; .ORG; The Barbarian Group; Level3; Adweek; Fortune; Variety; Wired; IDG; Brightcove; PricewaterhouseCoopers; 2advanced.Net; KobeMail and Museum of the Moving Image.

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