



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PORTRAIT OF ABUSE: AN AMERICAN EPIDEMIC

AMS wins 2008 International Health and Medical Media Award

Dallas, TX– The documentary, *Portrait of Abuse: An American Epidemic*, will be honored on November 14th in Philadelphia, PA during the 34th annual International Health and Medical Media Awards known as "The Freddies." Dallas' **AMS Production Group** re-released the documentary this month for screenings in high definition video in time for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

The film's producer and director, **Sara Ivey**, will represent AMS at the prestigious black tie event. "The Freddies are the 'Oscars' of health care and medical programming in television, cable and the corporate world. This is an honor we will cherish," says **Ivey**, who specializes in medical production and has been a Freddie finalist twice before for projects about organ transplantation as well as oral health. This is Ivey's first Freddie.

Portrait of Abuse is a compelling look at abuse through a variety of perspectives. It features interviews with victims, abusers, doctors, nurses, shelter care advocates, social workers and prosecutors and showcases successful approaches to keep women safe and restore their dignity.

When asked why AMS is involved in such a serious topic, Executive Producer **Mark McGovern** responded, "Domestic violence is truly at an epidemic level in this country. Our hope is that we can raise awareness and get people talking about what has been hidden for so long."

"We're extremely grateful to the many women who have come forward to tell their story in this piece. Their courage can make a world of difference to the millions of families who are still too afraid or don't know how to get away from the pain," says **McGovern**.

The award-winning HD documentary crew includes AMS President, CEO and Co-Executive Producer **Andy Streitfeld**; Director of Photography **Luisa Mendoza**; Editor **Chris Tonick**, Associate Producer **Jessica Espinosa**, Audio Engineer **David Marks**, Sound Designer **Stephen Bowers** and a dozen other AMS staff members.

Concept Media of Irvine, California distributes the film for AMS Production Group. The company provides professional education for colleges, healthcare institutions, social service agencies and counseling centers throughout North America, Europe, and the South Pacific.

The International Health & Medical Media Awards are sponsored by media, nonprofit and industry leaders such as *Microsoft, CNN, Discovery Health Channel, the American Medical Association, AARP, Bayer HealthCare, GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca.*

For more information, visit these websites.

AMS Production Group - www.amspg.com

The film - www.portraitofabuse.com

The awards - www.thefreddies.com.

The distributor - www.conceptmedia.com

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