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## **New public television special *SCTV Golden Classics* presents Emmy Award-winning sketch comedy series' most hilarious moments**

***Premieres nationwide beginning February 26 and throughout March on public television (check local listings)***

Return to Melonville with the new public television special ***SCTV Golden Classics*** featuring some of the most hilarious skits from the legendary sketch comedy television series, starring John Candy, Joe Flaherty, Eugene Levy, Andrea Martin, Rick Moranis, Catherine O'Hara, Martin Short, and Dave Thomas. Distributed by WLIW21 in association with WNET.ORG, ***SCTV Golden Classics*** premieres nationwide on public television stations beginning February 26 and throughout March (check local listings). The exclusive broadcast premiere aired December 2009 on New York metro area public television station WLIW21 in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Second City, which opened its first theatre December 16, 1959 in Chicago, spawned the Emmy Award-winning *SCTV* in 1976, and launched the careers of comedy luminaries ranging from Alan Arkin and Joan Rivers to John Belushi, Mike Myers, Tina Fey, and Stephen Colbert.

*SCTV*, or Second City Television, followed the exploits of an aspiring fictional television station, led by Owner and President Guy Caballero (Flaherty), and the inimitable personalities who starred in its local programs. Spoofing TV programming staples like game shows, talk shows and film shows, famous sketches featured in ***SCTV Golden Classics*** include "The Great White North" with Canadian brothers Bob (Moranis) and Doug (Thomas) McKenzie; "Monster Chiller Horror Theatre" Host Count Floyd (Flaherty) previewing "Dr. Tongue's 3D House of Stewardesses" starring mad scientist Dr. Tongue (Candy) and hunch-backed servant Bruno (Levy); hillbillies Big Jim McBob (Flaherty) and Billy Sol Hurok's (Candy) "Farm Film Report" blowing up Neil Sedaka (Levy); and parodies of *Jeopardy!* ("High Q with Alex Trebel" with Levy as host), *The Merv Griffin Show* and *The Dick Cavett Show*, both featuring Moranis as host. Laugh-out-loud celebrity impersonations and musical numbers

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include Candy as Pavorotti in a chewing gum ad; Levy as Perry Como singing disco hits; O'Hara as Katherine Hepburn and washed-up singer/actress Lola Heatherton; Martin as Ethel Merman and Indira Gandhi; Short as Jerry Lewis and pointy-haired nerd Ed Grimley; Leutonian polka stars The Happy Wanderers featuring the Shmenge Brothers (Candy and Levy); and barbershop-style vocal group 5 Neat Guys (Candy, Flaherty, Levy, Thomas, and Moranis) singing their neatest hits "She Does It," "Who Brought the Egg Salad Sandwiches" and more.

"2009 has been a particularly great year for comedy on public television with WLIW21's *The Best of Red Skelton* and THIRTEEN's *Make 'Em Laugh* miniseries, joining PBS traditions like *The Mark Twain Prize for American Humor*, Monty Python and other classic British and Canadian comedies. *SCTV*'s combination of raw talent and irreverent humor is the perfect fit," said David Rubinsohn, WLIW21 Vice President of Programming and Distribution and Station Manager. "We're happy to bring ***SCTV Golden Classics*** to our New York metro-area viewers for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and national audiences next year." Andrew Alexander, CEO/Executive Producer of The Second City, Inc. expressed, "We're thrilled that WLIW21 is helping us celebrate 50 years of making audiences laugh. It's great that America's first city can be part of The Second City's golden anniversary."

During its seven-year run, *SCTV* garnered 13 Emmy Award nominations and won two for best writing. It grew to be adored by audiences in its native Canada before spreading to American distribution. "We were totally misplaced to our markets," reflected *SCTV* cast member Dave Thomas, "We should have been on PBS. We would have been closer to getting our audience." Enjoyed by younger generations in syndication, the series proved to be an original template for the sketch comedy format on television, with ensemble work, structuring and presentation that would inspire virtually all other sketch programs to come. Whether you're a longtime fan or watching for the first time, when you tune in to ***SCTV Golden Classics*** take Guy Caballero's advice, "Sit back, shut up and enjoy the show."

A production of Second City Entertainment and CanWest MediaWorks. Executive Producers: Andrew Alexander and Len Stuart. Director: John Blanchard. A presentation of WLIW21 in association with WNET.ORG.

#### **About WNET.ORG**

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