Shaw Media **GLOBAL TELEVISION**

Shaw Media Announces Casting and Production Details For Global's Original Drama Series Bomb Girls

Academy Award® Nominated Actress Meg Tilly (*Agnes of God*, *The Big Chill*) Leads Ensemble Cast

Production Begins September 12 in Toronto

For cast images, please visit: www.shawmediatv.ca

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TORONTO, Aug. 25, 2011 /CNW/ - Today **Shaw Media** announced casting and production details for **Global Television**'s original drama series, ***Bomb Girls***. Starring Oscar® nominated actress Meg Tilly (*Agnes of God, The Big Chill*), the series begins production in Toronto on September 12 and runs through November 16, 2011. Commissioned by Shaw Media's original content team and produced by Muse Entertainment/Back Alley Films, the six-part, one-hour series is scheduled to premiere on Global in January 2012.

Set in the 1940s, *Bomb Girls* tells the remarkable stories of the women who risked their lives in a munitions factory building bombs for the Allied forces fighting on the European front. The series delves into the lives of these exceptional women from all walks of life - peers, friends and rivals - who find themselves thrust into new worlds and changed profoundly as they are liberated from their home and social restrictions.

"*Bomb Girls* is rich with historical significance, stemming from the efforts of Canadian women during the Second World War, and we are proud to spotlight the groundbreaking bravery of these unsung heroes through this new Global original," said **Barbara Williams**, **Senior Vice-President**, **Content**, **Shaw Media**. "With its fresh-faced cast, seasoned production team, intriguing storylines and unflappable characters, this six-part series is a dynamic addition to our midseason slate."

Bomb Girls stars Meg Tilly as Lorna, a supervisor at the munitions factory with two sons on the front; Jodi Balfour (*The Sinking of the Laconia*) as Gladys, a wealthy socialite who becomes a bomb girl despite her parents' disapproval; Charlotte Hegele (*Murdoch Mysteries)* as Kate, a preacher's daughter with a golden voice who's running from her fundamentalist father; Ali Liebert (*Hellcats)* as Betty, a fast-talking girl from the Prairies responsible for training the bomb girls; Anastasia Philips (*Skins*) as Vera, whose life is forever changed by her work on the assembly line; Lisa Norton (*72 Hours: True Crime*) as Edith, a forlorn mother of two youngsters; and Antonio Cupo (*L'Ombra del destino*) as Marco, an Italian-born factory worker who is banned from the army because of his ethnic background.

"We're stepping away from the familiar romantic notions of the '40s to instead explore the astonishing and little-known truths about the home front," said co-creator **Michael MacLennan** *(Flashpoint, Queer as Folk).* Further to this, co-creator **Adrienne Mitchell** (*Durham County, Bliss*) added, "When an explosive could blast in your face today, when your overseas lover could be shot dead tomorrow, when you're not sure if the free world will be standing next month, you play your cards however you want — and you don't play by the old rules."

Produced by Muse Entertainment (*The Kennedys)* and Back Alley Films (*Durham County)*, executive producers include Michael MacLennan, Michael Prupas (Muse Entertainment), Janis Lundman (Back Alley Films) and Adrienne Mitchell (Back Alley Films). Adrienne Mitchell is also the co-showrunner along with Michael MacLennan, who serves as the series' head writer. *Bomb Girls* will be directed by Adrienne Mitchell, Ken Girotti (*Rescue Me, Law & Order: Criminal Intent*) and Anne Wheeler (*Da Vinci's Inquest*, *Cra$h and Burn*).

The series will be distributed worldwide by Muse Distribution International.

About Global Television
Global Television is a Shaw Media network.

About Shaw Communications Inc.
Shaw Communications Inc. is a diversified communications and media company, providing consumers with broadband cable television, High-Speed Internet, Home Phone, telecommunications services (through Shaw Business), satellite direct-to-home services (through Shaw Direct) and engaging programming content (through Shaw Media). Shaw serves 3.4 million customers, through a reliable and extensive fibre network. Shaw Media operates one of the largest conventional television networks in Canada, Global Television, and 19 specialty networks including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada, History Television and Showcase. Shaw is traded on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges and is included in the S&P/TSX 60 Index (Symbol: TSX - SJR.B, NYSE - SJR). For more information about Shaw, please visit www.shaw.ca.

About Muse Entertainment
Muse Entertainment is a leading film and television production company known for its well-crafted and high-quality productions. Since its founding in 1998, Muse has produced, co-produced or provided production services on more than 150 TV movies and mini-series, television series and feature films and has won 93 awards and garnered over 300 award nominations!

Most recently, Muse Entertainment produced the 8-hr. television event *The Kennedys* and co-produced the 8-hr. event series *Pillars of the Earth*, based on the popular Ken Follett novel. Other big-event, mini-series' include: *Ben Hur*, *The Phantom, The Last Templar*, *Impact, Human Trafficking* and *Answered by Fire*. Muse is also producing the second season of its other-worldly series *Being Human* produced the series *Durham County, This is Wonderland* and *Crusoe.*

The company's head office and its Quebec production centre are in Montreal. Muse maintains development and production operations in Toronto and Los Angeles and an international sales office in London, England.

About Back Alley Film Productions Ltd.
Back Alley Film Productions Ltd. has been producing entertaining and provocative film and television in Canada for over 20 years and is known internationally for its production of cutting edge and entertaining dramatic television series. Founded by Janis Lundman and Adrienne Mitchell, the company most recently produced the critically acclaimed Durham County, a dramatic crime series that explores violence and the hope for love that drives it. They also created and produced the series Bliss and the first interactive dramatic series in Canada for CBC, Drop The Beat, set in the world of hip hop music and the Gemini award-winning "Straight Up" also for CBC. In 2001 Mitchell and Lundman won the Production Award for Excellence from Women in Film & Television-Toronto. Back Alley is currently in pre-production on the new series Bomb Girls, set to air in early 2012 on Global TV. Back Alley Films has offices in Toronto and Montreal.

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