MetroFocus Co-Host and Award-Winning Journalist Jack Ford to Receive “Bella Fella” Award from Bella Abzug Leadership Institute

Broadcast Veteran to be Honored at Awards Event in NYC on May 8th

NEW YORK [March 29, 2017] – Jack Ford of local PBS affiliate WNET, award-winning broadcast journalist and co-host of public television’s MetroFocus daily newsmagazine program, has been selected by the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute (BALI) to receive the prestigious “Bella Fella Award” at the “11th annual Bella & Bella Fella Awards.” Ford and other recipients will be honored in an awards ceremony and reception event to be held at New York Athletic Club in New York City on Monday, May 8, 2017.

BALI utilizes the signature leadership skills of the late Bella Abzug, the legendary Congresswoman, to mentor and train middle, high school and college age women, and helps develop the confidence and skills they need to be effective, dynamic and visionary leaders in public, corporate and civic life. (For more information about the event, visit www.abzuginstitute.org.)

“I’m deeply honored to be recognized by BALI and grateful for the work it does to nurture the leadership skills of young women,” said Ford. “Working in public
television, we also have deep ties to the community and a shared mission to educate, inform, empower, and inspire through innovative community programs that have positive impact and real value.”

“On behalf of the BALI Board of Directors, we are very pleased to honor Jack Ford for all his exceptional work in media and the law, advancing the cause of gender equality and his strong support of young women’s leadership,” said Liz Abzug, Founder/CEO of BALI.

Jack Ford’s distinguished career has spanned decades and includes everything from successful Emmy and Peabody Award-winning broadcast journalist, to author, to prominent trial attorney in the Northeast. His broadcasting career began in 1984 as an anchor at WCBS-TV in New York. Since then, he has worked at news outlets such as NBC News, NBC’s Today Show and Dateline, and ABC’s Good Morning America. Most viewers recognize him as the primary legal correspondent for NBC News during the O.J. Simpson trial in the mid-90’s. Jack has worked as a CBS News legal analyst and is a correspondent for 60 Minutes Sports, as well as currently the co-host of the MetroFocus daily news series on public television.

MetroFocus is an award-winning multi-platform daily news magazine serving the New York and tri-state region, which airs on local PBS stations THIRTEEN, WLIW21, and NJTV. The MetroFocus television program features interviews, in-depth reporting, content from many partners and solutions-oriented reports from the community. Major areas of coverage include sustainability, education, science and technology, the environment, transportation, poverty and underserved communities. metrofocus.org amplifies that reporting with daily updates and original stories that also cover culture, government and politics, the economy, urban development and other news in the metropolitan region. More information at: metrofocus.org.

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About WNET

WNET is America’s flagship PBS station and parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21. WNET also operates NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its broadcast channels, three cable services (KidsThirteen, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend, Charlie Rose and a range of documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings. WNET’s groundbreaking series for children and young adults include Get the Math, Oh Noah! and Cyberchase as well as Mission US, the award-winning interactive history game. WNET highlights the tri-state’s unique culture and diverse communities through NYC-ARTS, Theater Close-Up, NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams and MetroFocus, the daily multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. In addition, WNET produces online-only programming including the
award-winning series about gender identity, First Person, and an intergenerational look at tech and pop culture, The Chatterbox with Kevin and Grandma Lill. In 2015, THIRTEEN launched Passport, an online streaming service which allows members to see new and archival THIRTEEN and PBS programming anytime, anywhere: www.thirteen.org/passport.

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