



PRESS RELEASE

THE WEST WING V – Premier this Sunday, 8 May at 4.05pm

Back for a fifth season on e.tv, the Emmy Award-winning series **The West Wing** returns for a behind-the-scenes look at another year in the life of the astute and frenzied staffers in the Oval Office.

For those of you who missed out on the previous four seasons, this sophisticated one-hour drama series stars previous Emmy winners Martin Sheen, Stockard Channing, Bradley Whitford, John Spencer, Richard Schiff and Allison Janney, Emmy nominees Dulé Hill and Janel Moloney, and hot newcomer Joshua Malina.

From his office in the White House, President Josiah Bartlet (Sheen) leads the most powerful nation on earth. Directly descended from one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, New Hampshire Democrat Bartlet exudes a country-lawyer charisma that complements his brilliance, his deep conviction and his devotion to what he believes is right for the country.

A brilliant academician in her own right, first lady Dr. Abigail "Abbey" Bartlet (Channing) staunchly supports her husband but does not hesitate to keep him in line when necessary. But no amount of personal fortitude can prepare the Bartlets for every parent's worst nightmare: the traumatic kidnapping of their youngest daughter, Zoey (recurring guest star Elisabeth Moss). The kidnapping reverberates through the nation - and through the Bartlets' marriage. As the distraught President steps down temporarily - handing executive powers to the Republican Speaker of the House (recurring guest star John Goodman), due to the prior resignation of the Vice President - Bartlet must face the harrowing notion that the crisis is the direct result of his controversial political actions.

Bartlet's dedicated staff perseveres even as the White House is overrun with their Republican rivals. As always, professorial Chief of Staff Leo McGarry (Spencer) resolutely serves as Bartlet's political and emotional right hand. Deputy Chief of Staff Josh Lyman (Whitford) puts his highly regarded political mind into overdrive to help Leo cope with the situation. Ever present to keep Josh well-grounded is Donna Moss (Moloney), his capable assistant, who more than holds her own when it comes to the friendly verbal sparring between the two.

Despite the intense media scrutiny in the briefing room, Press Secretary C.J. Cregg (Janney) remains cool and competent. Stoic Toby Ziegler (Schiff), the ruffled and sleepless communications director, focuses on the task at hand, even as he celebrates a personal milestone when his ex-wife gives birth to his twins. Deputy Communications Director Will Bailey (Malina) rises to the occasion as the newest member of the senior staff. And proving himself more and more valuable each day is the President's brilliant young personal assistant, Charlie (Hill), who works closely with Deborah Fiderer (recurring guest star Lily Tomlin), Bartlet's dedicated personal secretary.

The West Wing was honoured with a record-setting nine Emmy Awards in its first season, including Outstanding Drama Series. In 2001, the series received another eight Emmy Awards, repeating its win as Outstanding Drama Series, and it was nominated for 22 Emmys in 2002, winning five, including Outstanding Drama for the third year in a row. With two 2003 wins, including its fourth for Outstanding Drama, the show has gone from strength to strength.

Other accolades include two Peabody Awards, two Humanitas Prizes, two Golden Globe Awards, five Golden Satellite Awards, six Screen Actors Guild Awards, five Producers Guild of America Golden Laurel Awards, two Directors Guild of America Awards.

Go behind the scenes with e.tv from this Sunday at 4.05pm and experience the inner workings of the White House in this innovative drama series executive produced by Emmy Award winner John Wells.

Please contact Rhona Pool for further information and pictures.

Email: rhonap@etv.co.za