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August 12, 2008 Jessica Robinson, KCET, 323.953.5308

"TAVIS SMILEY" WILL BROADCAST LIVE FROM BOTH THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN CONVENTIONS, AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 5

LOS ANGELES, CA— August 25 through September 5, "Tavis Smiley" will be live Monday through Thursday in both Denver and St. Paul reporting from the Democratic and Republican conventions with full analysis of each night's primetime convention activities plus in-depth conversations with party leaders, elected officials and high-profile supporters from both parties. On Friday night in both cities, Tavis and a diverse panel will re-cap the week.

During his coverage of both the Democratic and Republican conventions, *Tavis Smiley* on PBS will continue to fulfill its promise to "introduce Americans to each other" by offering stimulating conversations with a diverse mix of trendsetters and opinion-makers from the worlds of politics and media.

In addition to his PBS show, on February 23, 2008 Tavis Smiley organized and hosted the 9th annual "State of the Black Union" symposium held in New Orleans. The 2008 State of the Black Union symposium hosted a panel of distinguished scholars, policymakers and leaders in a lively discussion about the role of African Americans in the 2008 presidential elections.

In 2007, Tavis Smiley also moderated the "All-American Presidential Forums on PBS" which marked the first time that a panel exclusively comprised of journalists of color was represented in primetime. The candidates were asked about issues ranging from healthcare and housing to Katrina relief, the economy and the environment, among others outlined in the #1 *New York Times* best-seller, *Covenant With Black America*.

Online convention coverage and web extras including Tavis' video blog and photos will be available online at www.pbs.org/tavis.

ABOUT TAVIS SMILEY

Tavis Smiley is the host of the PBS late night talk show and *The Tavis Smiley Show* from PRI and author/editor of 11 books. Tavis Smiley recently received two honors at the 39th annual NAACP Image Awards bringing his total to 12 Image Awards throughout his career. In addition, on February 23, Tavis organized and hosted the 9th annual "State of the Black Union" symposium held in New Orleans.

Tavis Smiley is produced by The Smiley Group Inc./TS Media Inc. in association with KCET/Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.pbs.org/tavis.

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