



January 07, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2008

Contact:

Jenny Park, 415-901-0111, jpark@fenton.com

Laurel Lambert, (323) 953-5246, llambert@kcet.org

SEASON PREMIER MARKS TAVIS SMILEY'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY ON PBS

Denzel Washington, Will Smith, Alan Alda, Halle Berry, Joni Mitchell join other entertainment notables in congratulating Smiley on 5 'remarkable, wonderful, intelligent, amazing' years

LOS ANGELES — This week's broadcast of *Tavis Smiley* marks the 5th anniversary of the PBS late-night talk show, and features congratulatory messages from the host's friends, colleagues, and former guests on the show. The celebrities wishing him a happy anniversary include Alan Alda, Denzel Washington, Halle Berry, Jamie Foxx, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor and Laura Linney. Their filmed messages will air each night on the show through the rest of the month, including one from actor Will Smith who assures Smiley that Smith considers him "just as intelligent and sexy and handsome as you've always been."

This anniversary year promises to be an eventful one for Smiley. Building on the momentum generated last year from hosting two All-American Presidential Forums on PBS, Smiley will continue to stay on top of the candidates and their issues with special broadcasts from both parties' political conventions. This season will also feature a special week of broadcasts in early April from Memphis, Tenn., in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In this anniversary year, *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 arts and entertainment, politics and media. Guests this week include Colin Powell, Denzel Washington and Carlos Santana. In the exclusive interview with Powell, Smiley asks the former Secretary of State about Pakistan, Kenya and other global hot spots, as well as about the surprising developments in the 2008 presidential race.

About Tavis Smiley

In addition to his PBS weeknight series, Tavis Smiley is the host of "The Tavis Smiley Show from PRI" and the author/editor of 11 books, including *The New York Times* best-sellers *Covenant with Black America* and *What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*. His latest book, *THE COVENANT In Action* is in stores now. For more information, visit www.tavistalks.com

Tavis Smiley is produced by The Smiley Group Inc./TS Media Inc. in association with KCET/Hollywood. For more information visit www.pbs.org/tavissmiley