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Award-Winning Horseracing Documentary “On the Muscle” Begins Holiday Run on Japan’s Green Channel

LITTLE ROCK, CA, December 16, 2010 - Television viewers in Japan will get a rare, behind-the-scenes look at life in a Southern California racing barn when Green Channel features the acclaimed documentary series *On the Muscle* as part of their New Year Specials beginning in January.

On the Muscle: Portrait of a Thoroughbred Racing Stable chronicles a history-making year in the barn of Hall of Fame trainer Richard Mandella, and was filmed at Santa Anita, Hollywood Park and Del Mar racetracks. The groundbreaking series earned a National Television Media Eclipse Award in 2006 after its initial broadcast on HRTV. The American Library Association recognized the DVD with its Editors’ Choice Award in 2008. *On the Muscle* has been a perennial favorite in the U.S., with multiple runs on HRTV, and robust DVD distribution.

The three-part series from Pony Highway Productions will have its Japanese premier on Green Channel on January 1, and will be rerun nightly during the first week of January, while viewers are traditionally on holiday. Additional reruns will be scheduled over the three-year license period.

Kenji Abe, General Manager, Programming and Production for Green Channel, commented, “As the only horseracing channel in Japan, we’ve been broadcasting domestic and international races since 1995. Through the years, we’ve witnessed globalization in Japanese horseracing, with more and more foreign horses and jockeys attending Japanese races, and Japanese attending international races. We believe there is a lot more we can learn from the world, and aim to provide our viewers with such content. *On the Muscle* is an insightful series that portrays Richard Mandella’s activities and philosophy running his world-class stable. We hope our viewers will enjoy watching it.”

“We’re thrilled by the opportunity to share On the Muscle with the people of Japan, who have such a fantastic appreciation for the sport of horseracing,” said Bill Yahraus, President of Pony Highway Productions. “It’s an honor to be a part of Green Channel’s New Year Specials.”

Pony Highway Productions is the digital filmmaking team of Bill Yahraus and Robin Rosenthal. From their high desert studio in Littlerock, California, they specialize in long-form, observational style documentaries. For more information visit www.ponyhighway.com.

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