



apartment**11**productions

828 St. Catherine St. East, Suite 200
Montreal, Quebec, H2L 2E3, Canada
Tel: 514 • 282 • 0776
Fax: 514 • 282 • 0796
email@apartment11.tv
www.apartment11.tv

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Re: Mystery Hunters Program Content

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide television stations with certified documentation that the producers of the thirty minute live-action television series entitled *Mystery Hunters* have designed the series to educate and inform children 13 -16 years of age, although the producers strive to make this show educational and fun viewing for all audiences.

Mystery Hunters is an excellent example of a children's program that is innovative and empowering. Through critical observation, analytical thinking, and scientific testing, the series encourages children to question the world around them. Through both the travel aspect and investigation of ancient myths and mysteries, there is a profound focus on history, culture, geography, and international customs.

The *Mystery Hunters* are Araya and Christina, regular kids with inquisitive minds, who travel the globe to investigate the sites and delve into the tales which have baffled people throughout the ages – looking for the Loch Ness Monster, unraveling a smelly mummy, searching for Princess Anastasia, and learning the true story of King Tut. Armed with video cameras and their instincts, they gather facts and meet the experts, debunking common myths and offering explanations for legends, spooky stories, and unexplained phenomena. They use critical thinking and scientific reasoning to show that things are not always what they seem. Back at the Discovery Mystery Lab, Doubting Dave, the resident skeptical scientist, challenges viewers to send in their own mysteries, and then tackles the questions with experiments and logical explanations. Dave also assists the *Mystery Hunters* with their investigations.

Mystery Hunters has won several prizes recognizing its educational values. Among them, are the prestigious Japan Prize, Prix Jeunesse, and Parent's Choice Award.

The Japan Prize was established in 1965 by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) as an International Educational Program Contest with the aim of improving the quality of educational programs around the world and contributing to the development and fostering of international understanding and cooperation. According to the Japan Prize Jury, *Mystery Hunters* won because of "its high educational value and its understanding of how to capture a youth audience."

Similarly, The Prix Jeunesse was established in 1964. Its aim is to promote quality television for the young worldwide. It wants to bring forward television that enables children to see, hear, and express themselves and their culture, and that enhances an awareness and appreciation of other cultures. This is especially seen throughout the *Mystery Hunters* series, as an important result of the attention paid to travel and multiculturalism, is the open-mindedness and objectivity that children get to experience, teaching them to be respectful of all people's beliefs.

Finally, the Parents' Choice Awards, founded in 1978, are designed to help parents and caregivers of all achievements and backgrounds make informed decisions about which new products are right for their children, the Parents' Choice Awards is the nation's oldest nonprofit program created to recognize quality children's media. *Mystery Hunters* was recognized by the Parents' Choice Awards in 2006.

These organizations, as well as many others, have recognized the value of this youth series, and leave no doubt as to the fact that the episodic content of *Mystery Hunters* will certainly further the educational and informational needs of children aged 13 to 16 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mindy Laxer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Mindy" is written with a large, looped 'M' and the last name "Laxer" is written in a more straightforward cursive.

Mindy Laxer
Vice-President and General Manager
Apartment 11 Productions Inc.