



TAVIS SMILEY ANNOUNCES MULTIPLE DEALS ON MULTIPLE PLATFORMS INCLUDING NEW ONLINE/TV SERIES

LOS ANGELES, January 8, 2018: The Smiley Group, Inc., holding company for award-winning talk show host Tavis Smiley, has announced multiple new deals across an assortment of platforms aimed at reaching a broader, younger and more international audience.

“Every crisis presents us an opportunity,” explained Smiley. “I look forward to speaking with a louder, clearer voice to even more people. There is just too much going on that demands our immediate attention.”

Following a decision by PBS to end distribution of his long-running nightly talk show, *Tavis Smiley*, the broadcaster has signed on to host a new online series called “*The Upside with Tavis Smiley*.” The weekly interview series to commence second quarter 2018, will celebrate the spirit of resilience, the power to overcome that resides in each of us.

TS Media, Inc. has partnered with the fast-growing digital media company AerNow for online distribution. AerNow will distribute the series over various devices and platforms including: Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Roku, Xbox, Chromecast, iOS, Android, desktop, notebook, etc., with a total universe of more than 500 million viewers.

“*The Upside*” series and other broadcast specials will also air on The Word Network, one of the world’s largest non-secular television networks, available in over 200 countries and reaching nearly 93 million homes in the U.S. alone. “We are thrilled to have Tavis share his insightful programming with our audience, this is a coup for us,” said Kevin Adell, CEO and President of The Word Network.

Additionally, the company announced a partnership with Truli Media Group and Digital Content International (DCI) for its first international distribution deal. DCI will distribute “*The Upside*” series worldwide, as well as TS Media’s nearly 3,000 show catalog of “The Best of *Tavis Smiley*” episodes. “What Tavis has to say is relevant all over the world, whether in Europe, Asia, Africa or Latin America. We’re delighted to be distributing his new series and ‘The Best of *Tavis Smiley*’ to media outlets the world over,” said Michael Solomon, chair and CEO of Truli and DCI.

A forthcoming book from the bestselling author to be released Summer 2018 by SmileyBooks was also announced, “Leading By Listening: Connecting Through Conversation to Transform Your Relationships and Your Business.” Accompanied by an 8-session online course, the book will appeal to everyone from business executives to cultural creatives who are interested in constructive conversations to help them fulfill their purpose and manifest what they want in their lives.

Finally, the company announced that Smiley will undertake a 5-city town-hall tour, January 29 - February 2, called “The Conversation: Women, Men and the Workplace.” Smiley will moderate conversations about how to create safe and healthy work environments. “The polling is all over the place regarding what women and men think about where the lines are, and what constitutes acceptable office protocol. As I said weeks ago, we need to have a national conversation about these issues so women and men know how to engage each other in the workplace,” said Smiley.

“I am eager to join this essential conversation, starting with this tour.” The town-hall events will feature a panel of experts in dialogue with each other and the audience. These events, free and open to the public, will be recorded live and posted nightly to Smiley’s Facebook page, to continue the conversation online. Tour stops include Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

“I’m grateful to these new partners, and I’m anxious to get right back to work,” Smiley said. “Alongside our continuing weekly show on PodcastOne, these new deals will expose our work and witness to millions more viewers domestically and internationally, allow us to reach an even younger demographic, and continue our mission to enlighten, encourage and empower. I’m especially grateful that my staff, many who have been with me for 14 seasons, are able to return to work. Life moves on, and so must we.”

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