



makes you think

## media release

### THREE UNIQUE TALENTS FIND WHERE THEY BELONG ON TVO

- Respected playwright and actor Andrew Moodie, bestselling Canadian author Russell Smith and wickedly funny comedian Sandra Shamas to host *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* – TVO's week-long presentation of documentaries, dramas and current affairs programs in primetime March 22 to 29 exploring the themes of belonging and identity.

**Toronto, March 9, 2009** – They come from different backgrounds but all have carved out a place for themselves in Canada and have had an impact on our society. Beginning Sunday March 22 and running through March 29 actor and playwright Andrew Moodie, author Russell Smith and comedian Sandra Shamas will take turns introducing the thought-provoking programs that make up TVO's *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* and offer their take on themes of culture and identity and our place in society.

"I'm hoping that people get a glimpse at the parallel worlds that exist all around us," says Andrew Moodie about *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* Ottawa-born Andrew Moodie is host of TVO's lecture series *Big Ideas* and is an award-winning actor, director and playwright whose work includes *A Common Man's Guide to Loving Women*, *Toronto the Good*, and the radio drama *Afghanistan*. He describes himself as "a Canadian, a father, an actor and a human being."

Co-host Russell Smith considers himself, "typically Canadian in that I was not born here." He adds, "In Canada, cultural difference and cultural mixing are everyday life, and still constantly fascinating. This series of films from around the world approaches difference, 'outsiderness' and belonging in direct and indirect ways." The South African-born, Halifax-raised novelist and cultural commentator writes a weekly column on issues of representation for the *Globe and Mail*, is the editor of the online men's magazine *XYYZ.ca*, and is the bestselling author of *How Insensitive*, *Muriella Pent* and *Diana: A Diary in the Second Person*.

Sudbury-born to Lebanese immigrants, Sandra Shamas is a comedian who has explored her own identity through her one-woman stage shows *My Boyfriend's Back* and *There's Going to Be Laundry* and *Wit's End*. Her deeply personal and biting monologues explore her relationship with her dad, growing up in Sudbury, her marriage and eventual divorce.

For more information about programs on *Belong or Bust: Where Do I Fit In?* please visit TVO's March 2009 Highlights at [www.newswire.ca/en/releases/mmnr/tvo/march2009](http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/mmnr/tvo/march2009).

#### About TVO

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit [tvo.org](http://tvo.org).

#### Where to find TVO

Cable channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas), Bell TV channel 265, Star Choice channel 353.

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