



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

William Waybourn,
Managing Director

Contact: Alan Klein (212) 807-1700
Pager: (800) 601-5483 (please include area code)
Email: klein@glaad.org

ABC RECONSIDERS *ELLEN* HIATUS WITH MOVE TO NEW NIGHT AND TIMESLOT GLAAD PRESSES ABC FOR PLEDGE ON 'OUT' EPISODE

▼ Los Angeles
8455 Beverly Blvd
Suite 305
Los Angeles, CA 90048
213-658-6775
fax. 213-658-6776

Los Angeles, CA, January 27, 1997—Following a successful campaign initiated by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to keep ABC-TV's *Ellen* on the air, the network announced last week that the sitcom would not be placed on hiatus, as it had originally intended.

▼ New York
150 West 26th Street
Suite 503
New York, NY 10001
212-807-1700
fax. 212-807-1806

Instead, *Ellen* will be moved to Tuesdays at 8:30 PM from March 4 through April 23, 1997, replacing *Life's Work*, which is expected to be canceled. The move will make room for Arsenio Hall's new show which will be showcased in *Ellen*'s regular timeslot. According to the ABC, *Ellen* will return to its Wednesday night timeslot in time for May sweeps.

▼ Northampton
10 West Street
Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-8928
fax. 413-586-5185

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono reports that the media watchdog organization is pleased that ABC has reconsidered its plan to give *Ellen* a two-month rest. However Ms. Bono added, "GLAAD would like ABC to finally end the speculation about whether an *Ellen* coming out episode will air. The public has waited patiently but now our patience is waning."

▼ Portland
707 Southwest Washington
St Suite 350
Portland, OR 97205
503-224-5285
fax. 503-224-5480

"We are encouraged by the latest news from ABC that *Ellen* will remain on the airwaves and we hope it signals that ABC and Disney will continue to do the right thing," said William Waybourn, GLAAD's managing director. "If ABC truly desires to paint an accurate picture of our diverse American landscape, it must not crop gay and lesbian Americans. When Ellen Morgan finally steps out of the closet we will all win—viewers and the network will benefit from an accurate reflection of lives of real Americans, including gay men and lesbians."

▼ Washington, DC
1875 Connecticut Ave,
Northwest, Suite 640
Washington, DC 20009
202-986-1360
fax. 202-667-0902

GLAAD maintains an "Ellen Watch" World Wide Web site at <http://www.glaad.org>.

GLAAD is the nation's lesbian and gay news bureau and the only national lesbian and gay multimedia watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.