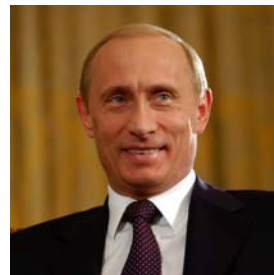


For Immediate Release



B B C Worldwide

Link TV Press contact: Julia Pacetti jpacetti@LinkTV.org

BBC Worldwide Press Contact: Alex Fulton (212) 705-9335 alex.fulton@BBC.co.uk

LINK TV PREMIERES BBC INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: *THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS*

Three Critically-Acclaimed Documentaries to Premiere on U.S. TV

Part I: *The Fugitive*: Friday, April 27, 5:00 pm PT/8:00 pm ET

Part II: *The Prisoner*: Saturday, April 28, 5:00 pm PT/8:00 pm ET

Part III: *The Politician*: Sunday, April 29, 5:00 pm PT/8:00 pm ET

New York, NY, April 9, 2007 — The critically-acclaimed, hit **BBC** series *THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS* will premiere on U.S. television on **Link TV** on April 27, it was announced today. *THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS* examines the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union in which the state-owned assets and resources of a world superpower were seized by a tiny group of smart, ruthless, and well-connected businessmen who rapidly joined the ranks of the richest people in history — and who are now at war with Vladimir Putin. This three-part series is an Oxford Film & Television Production for the BBC which will air as part of **Link TV**'s *Spotlight* series. The announcement was made today by Kim Spencer, President of **Link TV**, and Candace Carlisle, Senior Vice President **BBC Worldwide Americas**, the commercial arm of the **BBC**.

In a new international political landscape in which journalists and critics of the Kremlin risk imprisonment or assassination when reporting the news, **Link TV** presents the U.S. premiere of the **BBC**'s *THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS*, a thoroughly up-to-date investigation of the rise and fall of the Russian oligarchs and their ongoing war with Putin's 21st century Russian Democracy. In this highly-acclaimed series, **BBC** filmmakers obtain chilling, unprecedented on-camera access to the billionaires who are currently fighting Putin for economic and political control of their country, and the region.

Spencer states, “**THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS** gives U.S. audiences access to groundbreaking investigative reporting on the real sources of power driving the former Russian states right now. These programs take you deep inside the worlds of these incredibly powerful Russian billionaire-outlaws, with **BBC** journalists tracking and filming their every movement as they fight to shape the future of the region – despite Putin’s efforts to take them down. This is the kind of reporting American’s are craving, but just aren’t getting on the network news.”

Carlisle comments, “For a long time **BBC** documentary programming has been praised for the depth of its investigative journalism and **THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS** is an exceptional example. As such we are confident this program will be thoroughly appreciated by **Link TV**’s viewers who have a thirst for thought provoking television.”

Kremlin expert Jonathan Sanders will join *Spotlight* host Lakshmi Chaudhry to explore the issues raised in each of the three programs. Professor Sanders is the author of: *Russia 1917: The Unpublished Revolution*; *Comrade X Was Wrong: Soviet, TV Coverage of the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster*; and, co-authored with Heidi Hollinger, *The Face of Modern Russia's Political Opposition*. Also joining the program are special guests Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, author of *Resisting the State: Reform and Retrenchment in Post-Soviet Russia* and Associate Director of Stanford University’s Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law; and Margarita Akhvediani, Caucasus Program Director and regional editor at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting in Georgia.

Did the free-for-all of the privatization Russia’s natural resources allow the resurgence of a lawless conformity with old KGB tactics? Is the long-dormant Russian version of imperial power finally resurfacing to threaten newly-won economic and social freedoms? How are average Russian citizen’s affected? **Link TV**’s investigative *Spotlight* special **THE RUSSIAN GODFATHERS** offers unprecedented insight on the ruthless struggle for wealth, power and control over the resources of a former world superpower.

Spotlight is **Link TV**’s series of investigative reports from around the world that has aired such critically acclaimed programs as *Israel’s Secret Weapon*, *Bad Medicine* and *Afghan Massacre*. For further information on *Spotlight*, visit www.LinkTV.org.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

The Russian Godfathers: The Fugitive directed by Patrick Forbes featuring Boris Berezovsky, Vladimir Putin, Dima Muratov and Leonid Nevzlin
U.K., 60 minutes

Premieres: Friday, April 27, 5:00 pm PT/8:00 pm ET
Rebroadcast: Wednesday, May 2, 8:00 pm PT/11:00 pm ET

Meet the charismatic and determined billionaire Boris Berezovsky, who is waging his own Russian Revolution against President Putin – from Surrey, England. He lives in exile, having fled Russia in 2000 upon facing fraud charges. Once Yeltsin's Cabinet Secretary, Berezovsky was instrumental in choosing Putin as Yeltsin's replacement, but now he feels that he has been stabbed in the back by Putin's charges. Motivated by revenge and a lust for wealth, Berezovsky wages a very personal, off-shore political war against Putin, revealed in full detail in *The Russian Godfathers: The Fugitive*.

The Russian Godfathers: The Prisoner directed by Patrick Forbes featuring Vladimir Putin, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Robert Amsterdam
U.K., 60 minutes

Premiers: Saturday, April 28, 5:00 pm PT/8:00 pm ET
Rebroadcast: Thursday, May 3, 8:00 pm PT/11:00 pm ET

After the fall of Communism, Mikhail Khodorkovsky purchased the Yukos Oil company at a scandalously cheap price. The oil tycoon was known for flaunting his wealth with pet tigers and an entourage of beautiful cheerleaders, but in 2003 Khodorkovsky's criticism of Putin landed him in a Siberian jail on charges of fraud and tax evasion. As the state piled on the pressure – incarcerating Khodorkovsky before the trial, forcing his lawyers into exile and selling off his assets – doubts began to surface about the legitimacy of the government itself. Witness the infamous court battle between President Putin and Mikhail Khodorkovsky in *The Russian Godfathers: The Prisoner*.

The Russian Godfathers: The Politician directed by Patrick Forbes featuring Yuri Mikhailovich, Vladimir Putin, Alexander Lebedev
U.K., 60 minutes

Premieres: Sunday, April 29, 5:00 pm PT/8:00 pm ET
Rebroadcast: Friday, May 4, 8:00 pm PT/11:00 pm ET

Yuri Mikhailovich Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow is the last elected opposition to Putin, and neither man has ever forgotten that. It's election year in Moscow and a battle for control of one of the world's great cities unfolds in an all-out battle driven by the lust for power.

About BBC

The **BBC** exists to enrich people's lives with great programs and services that inform, educate and entertain. It provides a wide range of distinctive programs and services for everyone, free of commercial interests and political bias. They include television, radio, national, local, children's, educational, language and other services for key interest groups. The **BBC** is financed by a TV license

paid by households. It does not have to serve the interests of advertisers, or produce a return for shareholders.

About BBC Worldwide

BBC Worldwide Limited is the main commercial arm and a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Broadcasting Corporation (**BBC**). The company exists to maximize the value of the **BBC's** assets for the benefit of the license payer and invest in public service programming in return for rights. The company has six core businesses: Global Channels, Global TV Sales, Magazines, Content & Production, Home Entertainment and Digital Media. In 2005/06 BBC Worldwide generated profits of £89 million on sales of £784 million.

ABOUT LINK TV

Link TV is a nationwide, non-commercial television network available in more than 29 million U.S. homes as basic service on DIRECTV channel 375 and DISH Network channel 9410. Select programs are shown on cable systems in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Link's programs are streamed worldwide on the internet at www.LinkTV.org.

Twenty-four hours a day, **Link TV** broadcasts a compelling mix of documentaries from around the world, global and national news, award-winning foreign films, world music from 96 countries and innovative participatory programs promoting citizen action. Most of Link's programs are available nowhere else on American television.

Hailed by the late Peter Jennings on *ABC World News Tonight* as having "found a successful way to satisfy the curious," **Link TV** is renowned for its ground-breaking programming including the Peabody Award-winning daily newscast *Mosaic*, which monitors and airs unedited selections of news reports from more than 30 Middle-Eastern broadcasters, translated into English. An archive of *Mosaic* programs is available at www.LinkTV.org/mosaic/streamsArchive. *Mosaic* and its executive producers Jamal Dajani and David Michaelis have been featured in a wide array of news media including *ABC World News Tonight*, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, *NPR*, *The New York Times*, *The International Herald Tribune* and *The Washington Post*, among others.

Link has garnered the support of Bill Cosby, Brad Pitt, Dave Matthews, Cher, Danny Glover, Harry Belafonte, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson and others. For complete background information, program schedule, and streaming video, go to www.LinkTV.org.

###