

 April 10, 2012

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## TLC Premieres MY BIG FAT AMERICAN GYPSY WEDDING on April 29 at 10/9c

TLC today announced that is has scheduled the premiere of the all-new series MY BIG FAT AMERICAN GYPSY WEDDING – going inside the hidden world of American Gypsies – for Sunday, April 29 at 10/9c. Each of the series' 8 episodes will explore the tight-knit Gypsy community, offering up unprecedented access to their lives, welcoming viewers into their homes and trailers, and inviting them to their infamous Swarovski Crystal-studded weddings. Building on the worldwide success of the UK series MY BIG FAT GYPSY WEDDING, TLC will now go across the United States to share what it's like to be living as a Gypsy in America.

"MY BIG FAT AMERICAN GYPSY WEDDING is a remarkable look at a way of life that is extremely hidden from mainstream America, despite customs and celebrations that can be extravagantly elaborate – this is a culture where bigger is always better," said Amy Winter, GM, TLC. "With this series, TLC continues to open doors into little known worlds by sharing the lives of these fascinating families, their strong traditions, and their over-the-top parties and events."

There are an estimated one million Gypsies throughout the US, but most live in complete secrecy, away from the judgment and discrimination that plague their communities. However, their lifestyles are anything but discrete – they blend long-established values with modern-day influences, resulting in celebrations that are large, loud, and lavish. Boston-based Sondra Celli, America's leading Gypsy dressmaker, appears throughout the series, making the elaborate custom gowns that are a trademark of the Gypsy wedding tradition. Her outfits are also sought after for birthdays and other milestones when looking their best is the most important thing on a Gypsy's mind. From baptisms to birthdays, to the wildest weddings across the USA, the series will introduce Gypsies who are clinging to ancient traditions and connected by unbreakable family bonds.

In the series' premiere episode, two teenage girls are going through different rites of passage under the constant watching eyes of their protective mothers – there is no sex before marriage if you are a Gypsy teenager. In West Virginia, Hope is planning an extravagant 15<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and in Virginia, 17 year-old Shyanne is preparing for her wedding to a boy she got engaged to after their second meeting.

The following week, May 6 at 10/9c, Priscilla – a 14 year old Gypsy girl – has been training to become a good wife for years and is now ready to find her future husband. Her father, known as Pat Baby, is working around the clock to throw the best Halloween party in Georgia. They set off to create her dream dress, covered head to toe in crystals, and plan an event for over 300 Gypsies in the hopes that every eligible Gypsy man will be lining up to meet Priscilla.

The series fan site is located at http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/tv/my-big-fat-american-gypsy-wedding.

MY BIG FAT AMERICAN GYPSY WEDDING is produced for TLC by Firecracker Films.

## About TLC

TLC is a global brand that celebrates extraordinary people and relatable life moments through innovative nonfiction programming. A top 10 cable network in key female demos, TLC has built successful franchises around the Cake Boss and Say Yes to the Dress brands. In 2011, TLC had 28 series averaging 1.0 million P2+ viewers or more including Sister

Wives, My Strange Addiction, Extreme Couponing, Toddlers & Tiaras, 19 Kids and Counting, What Not To Wear and Long Island Medium.

TLC is available in more than 99 million homes in the US and 228 million households in nearly 170 markets internationally. A destination online, TLC.com offers in-depth fan sites, exclusive video content, and original editorial covering style, home, food, and more. Fans can also interact with TLC via On Demand services, on mobile platforms, including an iPhone App, and through social media such as Facebook or @TLC on Twitter. TLC is part of Discovery Communications (NASDAQ: DISCA,DISCB, DISCK), the world's number one nonfiction media company reaching more than 1.5 billion cumulative subscribers in over 210 countries and territories.