



Celebrities Added to the T.J. Martell Foundation *Women of Influence Awards*

Tony Award Nominee Kerry Butler and actress Megan Sikora along with Director, Writer and Producer of the Off-Broadway Hit "Under My Skin" Join This Year's Honorees

New York Awards will honor Today Show's Hoda Kotb, Fashion Designer Randi Rahm, Z100 Radio's Sharon Dastur and Founder of Radio One Cathy Hughes

New York, New York (April 21, 2014) - The T.J. Martell Foundation for leukemia, cancer and AIDS Research has announced its **Women of Influence Awards** which will be held **Thursday, May 1st, 2014** at New York's renowned Essex House at Central Park South. Joining this year's prestigious honorees will be various stars of the new Off-Broadway hit play *Under My Skin* along with the creators and director. Tony Award and Drama Desk Award nominee **Kerry Butler**, actress **Megan Sikora**, lead producer **Marla McNally Phillips**, director **Kirsten Sanderson** and co-writer **Prudence Fraser** will walk the pink carpet at this year's event. The new outrageous heartfelt comedy is all about love, sex and healthcare and has won rave reviews since beginning previews and will open on May 15th



at The Little Schubert Theatre. During the month of May the creators will be donating a percentage of the proceeds of all tickets sold to the TJ Martell Foundation. For more information and tickets to *Under My Skin*, please visit: <http://www.UnderMySkinThePlay.com>.

The awards and luncheon will be from 11:30am – 2pm. The awards celebration will honor four outstanding women who have achieved tremendous goals in business while balancing work, home and health. The event will be hosted by well-known radio personality, actress and cancer survivor **Robin Quivers**.

The foundation will honor **Hoda Kotb**, Co-host of the fourth hour of NBC's *Today Show*, **Randi Rahm**, celebrated New York fashion designer, **Sharon Dastur**, Program Director for New York's Z100 Radio and **Cathy Hughes**, Founder and Chairperson of Radio One Inc.



Hoda Kotb, whose first name means guidance in Egyptian, is the Daytime Emmy award winning Co-host of the fourth hour of NBC's *Today Show*. She also is a regular contributor to the network's Dateline NBC. She is the author of the best-selling book *Hoda: How I Survived War Zones, Bad Hair, Cancer and Kathie Lee* (2010) and *Ten Years Later: Six People Who Faced Adversity and Transformed Their Lives*. In 2007, Kotb underwent a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery for breast cancer and has since become a strong advocate for breast cancer awareness. It was at this time that she allowed Today Show cameras to follow her throughout her cancer battle and afterwards announced that she was cancer free. Her entire story was well documented on the show and has since raised important awareness for the prevention and early detection of breast cancer.



New York fashion designer **Randi Rahm** is one of the worlds most celebrated designers with an eye on detail. Rahm is famous for her couture gowns, bridal wear and evening wear collections and her wide range of clientele including celebrities and socialites. Rahm is based in New York and is also a classically trained concert pianist and musician. She has dressed celebrities such as Carrie Underwood, Mariah Carey, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Halle Berry, Eva Longoria, Ashanti, Holly Hunter and various other celebrities.

Often described as one of the most welcoming designers in New York, Rahm is quick to tell anyone that she designs for the real woman and considers herself her own client. This personal mantra is what makes her designs some of the most sought after in the world. Rahm works closely with every single client and leaves her distinctive mark not only on the fashions they choose but in the lifelong friendships she has been able to acquire along the way. Rahm is a strong advocate for cancer prevention and research often contributing her time and



influence to organizations like the T.J. Martell Foundation who make a difference and are passionate about finding a cure.



Sharon Dastur, Program Director of New York's powerhouse Z100 Radio was also one of the top honorees for Billboard's Women in Music 2011, 2012 and 2013, in addition to being named one of the Most Influential Women in Radio and Best Program Directors in America for the last 5 years. Dastur has been at Z100 for over 18 years and was responsible for a 23% increase in the station's share in New York for listeners aged 18-34. She has helped grow Z100 into one of the world's most influential radio stations. Dastur added a second station, Nick Radio, a youth-targeted station featured on iHeartRadio, in a partnership between Clear Channel and Nickelodeon. She is also the Executive Producer of the world famous Z100's Jingle Ball concert at Madison Square Garden, that sells out every year in under an hour. That role has also expanded into

one of the Producers for the national Jingle Ball tour with concerts in a dozen markets around the country. Sharon's love and ear for hit music has helped launch the careers of many superstars in music today.

Radio One Founder and Chairperson, **Cathy Hughes** is no stranger to adversity and challenge. The woman named Entrepreneur of the Year by the company Ernst & Young has built a media empire, but not without its challenges. Throughout her early years, Hughes looked that challenge straight in the face and has become a wonder woman of sorts in the industry. Hughes founded Radio One in 1980 and later expanded into TVOne. The company went public in 1999 making her the first and only African-American woman to head a publicly traded corporation. In the 1970s she created the urban radio format called "The Quiet Storm" on WHUR. When she and her husband Dewey Hughes, bought AM Radio station WOL 1450 in Washington, D.C. no one could have predicted that she would revamp it into a 24-hour talk radio format with the theme "Information is Power" and create one of the most listened to talk radio stations in the nation's capital. Radio One currently owns 53 radio stations in 16 major markets in the U.S. Hughes' son Alfred Liggins III, serves as CEO and President of Radio One and Hughes as Chairperson.



A limited amount of tickets are available for the event. Tickets, table sponsors and journal ads can be reviewed by going to the website's Events Page. Ticket purchase link: <http://bit.ly/WomenofInfluencePR>

ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION:

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. The Foundation, headquartered in New York, is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues in loving memory of his son T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$260 million dollars for research that supports top hospitals in the United States. For more information click on the T.J. Martell Foundation go to www.tjmartell.org

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