



thirteen
WNET NEW YORK

www.thirteen.org

1333 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Contact: Mary Schultz
tel : 202.216.2394
fax: 202.408.0608

press information

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RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY HONORED WITH NEW YORK FESTIVAL AWARDS

Washington, D.C. — ***RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY***, the acclaimed Thirteen/WNET New York-produced PBS news magazine program hosted by Bob Abernethy, has been honored with four awards in The New York Festivals 2009 International Television Programming and Promotion Competition in the category of Religious Programs for stories reported by correspondent Lucky Severson.

A Silver WorldMedal was awarded for “Criminalizing the Homeless,” a report examining the debate over tough new laws in Las Vegas restricting the number of free meals and charitable food giveaways to the homeless. “Homeless Preacher,” a profile of 39-year-old California street preacher Vincent Pannizzo, was honored with a Bronze WorldMedal. And “Scott Neeson Update,” focusing on one man’s life-changing commitment to help and provide hope to hundreds of Cambodia’s disadvantaged children, received a Finalist Certificate. All three were produced by Trent Harris. Another Finalist Certificate was awarded for “Circuit Preacher David Brown Revisited,” an update on one man’s efforts to bring a religious message to people with no full-time preacher of their own, which was produced by Phil O’Connor. In addition to these recent honors,, the program has also received 13 previous New York Festival awards.

Founded in 1957, The New York Festivals organizes nine annual international competitions in television, radio and print advertising; television and radio programming; non-broadcast education and industrial film and video; new media; healthcare communications; marketing effectiveness and financial services.

Now in its 12th season, ***RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY*** provides coverage and analysis of religion’s role — and the ethical dimensions — behind national and international headlines. Major funding is provided by Lilly Endowment, Inc. with additional support from Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and individual supporters. Executive editor and host for the program is Bob Abernethy; executive producer is Arnold Labaton; WNET executive-in-charge is Stephen Segaller.



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