

For Immediate Release:

## Franklin Leonard from Overbrook Entertainment and *The Black List* Joins Toronto Screenwriting Conference Line Up

Toronto, CANADA – March 25, 2011 – The Toronto Screenwriting Conference is thrilled to announce Overbrook Entertainment’s VP of Creative Affairs and the creator of *The Black List*, **Franklin Leonard**, is the newest addition to the list of speakers. The Toronto Screenwriting Conference takes place April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at Ryerson University.

“As a Hollywood development executive, Franklin brings extensive experience shepherding scripts through the process from concept to completion,” said Cher Hawrysh, Conference Manager, “Access to his insight will be invaluable to the professionals attending the Conference.”

Drawing from his development experience as Overbrook Entertainment’s Vice President of Creative Affairs and as creator of *The Black List* ([Blicklist.com](http://Blicklist.com)), **Franklin Leonard**, will offer conference delegates a business perspective on development in a 90-minute Q&A style workshop. Prior to joining Overbrook Entertainment (the company run by Will Smith, James Lassiter, Ken Stovitz and Jada Pinkett Smith), Franklin was the director of development at Universal Pictures and previously worked in development at the production companies of Sydney Pollack, Anthony Minghella, Leonardo DiCaprio and former Paramount Pictures president John Goldwyn.

Franklin’s Black List is a yearly publication that highlights Hollywood’s most popular unproduced screenplays. Since its inception five years ago, many screenplays that have appeared on The Black List have found commercial success, including two Academy Award nominees for Best Original Screenplay, JUNO and LARS AND THE REAL GIRL. In the last year, Franklin has been named one of *Black Enterprise* magazine’s “40 Emerging Leaders for Our Future” and AOL Black Voices “30 Black Hollywood Game Changers.”

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The **Toronto Screenwriting Conference** brings together leading experts in TV, film and video games for advanced training and skills development. Speakers include Emmy Award-winning writer-producer Leonard Dick (*THE GOOD WIFE*), Creator & Emmy nominated writer Butch Hartman (*THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS*), gaming scribe Kevin Shortt (*Avatar: The Game*), comedy writer/executive producer Christine Zander (*NURSE JACKIE*) and more. The Toronto Screenwriting Conference is sponsored by Telefilm Canada, National Screen Institute, Meridian Artists and the Canadian Film Centre. The Toronto Screenwriting Conference takes place at Ryerson University’s Ted Rogers School of Management April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, ([torontoscreenwritingconference.com](http://torontoscreenwritingconference.com)).

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Media Contact:

Juli Strader (1) 416 823 7233 [julistrader@gmail.com](mailto:julistrader@gmail.com)