



Speed Demons Wanted. New Discovery Channel Series, *Star Racer*, Looking for Drivers With the Need for Speed.

- Insight Productions seeking drivers of all disciplines, from Go Karts to motorcycles, in their search for the next racing champ on a pro circuit -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Toronto, Ontario (May 18, 2006) – Drivers, start your engines! Discovery Channel announced today that casting has begun on ***Star Racer***, a new docu-reality series airing this fall. The production team is on the hunt for the next Paul Tracy or Jacques Villeneuve, offering the chance of a lifetime to one extraordinary driver. Produced by Toronto's Insight Productions in association with Silverscreen International, the team is searching for 24 fearless racers who will compete for the Grand Prize – the title of Star Racer and a full season ride on a racing team in the professional circuit next season. Casting continues over the summer with principal photography expected to begin in June.

As the Canadian Go Kart season gets underway at racetracks across the country, this peddle-to-the-metal challenge will take the producers to qualifying Kart races in Barrie, ON; St-Roch-de-L'Achigan, PQ; and the highly anticipated nationals in Edmonton, AB, in the coming weeks and months. Twelve competitors from the Karting circuit will move onto the main competition at Le Circuit in Mt. Tremblant, Quebec. The producers will also be looking for 12 speed demons from various other disciplines, including dirt trackers, stock car drivers, motorcycle racers, ice racers, snowmobile racers, street racers, and others with a passion for speed.

Potential Star Racers, divided into rival groups, will move into spectacular Mt. Tremblant chalets to attend the world famous Jim Russell Driving School on the legendary Le Circuit racecourse. ***Star Racer*** will combine the complex science of racing, the precise design of racecars and engines plus the evolving social dynamic of the competitors as they race to the finish line. But speed alone won't win the ***Star Racer*** crown. Throughout the quest, competitors will be held up to intense scrutiny by a special three-person jury comprised of established experts from the motor sports world. This jury will evaluate the drivers based on all aspects of championship racing. The decision of the jury will help determine which racers are worthy of remaining in the chase and which racers fail to make the starting grid. At the finale, one racer – the Star Racer – will capture the checkered flag and drive away with a future in big time racing on the professional circuit.

"***Star Racer*** is a perfect fit for Discovery. It will have everything our viewers expect from us: a blend of high-octane stakes, great characters and compelling story lines all rooted in cutting-edge science," said Ann Harbron, Director of Commissioning and Production for Discovery Channel Canada. "As we start meeting these intrepid drivers, we are thrilled to have Insight at

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the helm of **Star Racer**. High-concept competition formats are very challenging to produce and Insight's enormous success with CTV's *Canadian Idol* uniquely positions its talented production team to deliver a gripping and entertaining hybrid designed specifically for Discovery's audience. I know they will find us Star Racers with stories that will engage us and draw us into this world."

Insight Productions, under the leadership of John Brunton, is one of Canada's foremost television producers. A natural-born storyteller, Brunton is well into his third decade at the helm of Insight Production Company Ltd. Heading into the casting process for **Star Racer**, Brunton's message is simple: "Strap into your harness, drivers. **Star Racer** is going to be an adrenaline-pumping, heart-pounding, rubber-burning first. Not just in Canada but everywhere motor sports reaches in the world. We can't wait to discover this passionate group of drivers, and for one, make their racing dream a reality."

The Insight team will work in association with Roy Krost of Silverscreen International. Krost, a lifelong motor sports fan, adds, "**Star Racer** will be pure excitement. We're thrilled that the series represents a significant and meaningful opportunity for young drivers hoping to follow in the footsteps of Ron Fellows, Paul Tracy, Jacques Villeneuve and the other great Canadian stars of racing."

Star Racer is sanctioned by ASN Canada FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile). Since its inception in 1904, the FIA has been the worldwide governing body of motor sports. The FIA world headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Paul B. Cooke is the Vice President of Competition and Director Of Karting for ASN Canada FIA, and will be on hand to ensure that the code and the goals of the FIA are adhered to throughout the competition phases of the series.

John Brunton, Barbara Bowbly and Roy Krost are the Executive Producers of **Star Racer**. Supervising Producer is Andrea Webb, Producer/Writer is Dave Toms and Co-Producer is Erin Brock.

Bold and leading edge, while informing and entertaining, Discovery Channel is Canada's leading source for factual programming, as it puts a new spin on exploring adventure, science and technology. This award-winning channel covers the scientific beat, from animals to the animalistic side of humanity, from the sea to space, and the latest in innovation. Roper Reports Canada has ranked Discovery Channel Canada first among all English-language Canadian specialty networks for overall quality of programming for eight consecutive years. Discovery Channel is one of the first Canadian specialty channels to offer programs in HDTV and its production house, Exploration Production Inc. (EPI), continues to be internationally recognized as a producer of cutting-edge programming. The channel's Web site may be found at www.discoverychannel.ca.