

Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer

In 1993, comedian, producer, media mogul, and philanthropist Byron Allen founded his Los Angeles-based global media company, **Entertainment Studios**. The company has additional offices in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, and Raleigh. Allen now owns one of the largest cable network portfolios in the industry, featuring ten, 24-hour HD television networks (*THE WEATHER CHANNEL*, *COMEDY.TV*, *CARS.TV*, *ES.TV*, *JUSTICECENTRAL.TV*, *MYDESTINATION.TV*, *PETS.TV*, *RECIPE.TV*, *LOCAL NOW*, and *THE WEATHER CHANNEL EN ESPAÑOL*). The company continues to produce and distributing Emmy Award-winning and nominated shows, while also selling advertising for 67 broadcast and cable television programs. **Entertainment Studios** has one of the largest libraries of family and advertiser-friendly lifestyle content in the world. Further distinguishing Entertainment Studios is its status as the first African-American owned multi-platform media studio producing and distributing wide-release motion pictures and content for all platforms. In 2015, Allen purchased Freestyle Releasing, now called **Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures**, a full-service theatrical movie distribution company. **Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures** released 2017's highest-grossing independent movie, the shark thriller *47 METERS DOWN*. In 2018, Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures released the critically-acclaimed and commercially successful Western *HOSTILES* and the historic mystery-thriller *CHAPPAQUIDDICK*. In 2019 ESMP released *47 METERS DOWN: UNCAGED*, the very successful second film in the potential franchise. To date, *47MD: UNCAGED* has earned nearly \$47M across all distribution platforms. The digital distribution unit of **Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures**, **Freestyle Digital Media**, is a premiere multi-platform distributor with direct partnerships across all major cable, digital and streaming platforms. Capitalizing on a robust infrastructure, proven track record and a veteran sales team, **Freestyle Digital Media** is a true home for independent films. In 2016, **Entertainment Studios** purchased **TheGrio**, a digital, video-centric news platform devoted to providing compelling entertainment, news and lifestyle content for African-Americans **TheGrio** features aggregated and original video packages, news articles, and blogs on topics that include breaking news, politics, health, business, and entertainment and remains focused on curating engaging digital content and currently has more than 20 million annual visitors.

In the spring of 2018, Byron Allen acquired the #1 weather news television network, **The Weather Channel**. In 2018, **The Weather Channel** was named the 2018 Harris Poll EquiTrend TV News Brand for the eighth consecutive year. It also deployed cutting-edge storytelling with its *IMR (Immersive Mixed Reality)* technology which draws viewers into detailed and visually stunning weather and climate events.

In 2019, Byron Allen announced the launch of **The Weather Channel en Español** which is slated for launch in 2022. Also in late Q4, 2019, Allen's technical team began rolling out **LOCAL NOW**, Entertainment Studios' STREAMING APP. This OTT and MOBILE APP will build revenue streams fed from across Byron Allen's many content business lines, building stronger engagement with a wider field of audience demographics. **Local Now** is powered by **The Weather Channel** technology which was a defining factor that attracted Allen and his executive team when they acquired the all-American brand in March of 2018.

In 2019, Byron Allen formed **ALLEN MEDIA BROADCASTING** and began building the broadcast station group which includes four, "BIG 4" stations. In February 2020, Allen Media Broadcasting acquired an additional 11 stations from the purchase of **USA TELEVISION**. The **USA TV** portfolio acquisition follows several recent transformative transactions executed by Byron Allen. In August 2019, Mr. Allen personally partnered with **Sinclair Broadcast Group** to acquire 21 Regional Sports Networks (RSNs) from Walt Disney/FOX Corporation for \$10.6 billion. In July 2019, Byron Allen acquired **Bayou City Broadcasting**, which included 4 television stations.

In August 2020, Allen Media Broadcasting added Honolulu ABC affiliate KITV, boosting his Allen Media Group's owned and operated big-four network affiliates to 16 stations in 12 markets.

As with other major television stations in Hawaii, KITV-ABC 4 also operates multiple

satellite stations and translators to rebroadcast its programming outside of metropolitan Honolulu – including KHVO-ABC 13 in Hilo and KMAU-ABC 12 in Wailuku – to cover all of the Hawaiian islands. The KITV portfolio also includes carriage of digital cable networks *MeTV*, *Hawaii TV*, *Start TV* and *Heroes & Icons*, as well as a Washington, D.C. news bureau and correspondent.

“Entertainment Studios will continue to aggressively look for other opportunities to grow our global media company through strategic acquisitions”, says Mr. Allen, who was inducted into Broadcasting and Cable’s, BROADCAST HALL of FAME in late October 2019.

In April 2021, ALLEN MEDIA BROADCASTING added 23 ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox network affiliate stations with its acquisition of most of the Gray Television facilities. The affiliate stations picked up by Allen Media include NBC’s KVOA in Arizona, KWWL in Iowa and WREX in Illinois; ABC’s WKOW in Wisconsin, WSIL/KPOB in Kentucky/Illinois and WAOW/WMOV in Wisconsin.

Planned for 2022 launch, Byron Allen will debut **The Weather Channel Español**, the first 24 hour Spanish language weather service.

About Allen Media Group / Entertainment Studios

Chairman and CEO Byron Allen founded **Allen Media Group/Entertainment Studios** in 1993. Headquartered in Los Angeles, it has offices in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, and Raleigh. **Allen Media Group** owns 25 ABC-NBC-CBS-FOX network affiliate broadcast television stations in 19 U.S. markets and twelve 24-hour HD television networks serving nearly 180 million subscribers: **THE WEATHER CHANNEL**, **PETS.TV**, **COMEDY.TV**, **RECIPE.TV**, **CARS.TV**, **ES.TV**, **MYDESTINATION.TV**, **JUSTICE CENTRAL.TV**, **THEGRIO.TV**, **THIS TV**, **LOCAL NOW TV**, and **PATRN**. **Allen Media Group** will add its thirteenth network, **THE WEATHER CHANNEL EN ESPANOL** in 2021. **Allen Media Group** also owns **LOCAL NOW** and **THE GRIO** free-streaming AVOD services, powered by **THE WEATHER CHANNEL** and content partners, which delivers real-time, hyper-local news, weather, traffic, sports, and lifestyle information. **Allen Media Group** also produces, distributes, and sells advertising for 68 television programs, making it one of the largest independent producers/distributors of first-run syndicated television programming for broadcast television stations. **Allen Media Group International Television** continues to extend its corporate branding and content around the globe. It currently has active license agreements and programming in South Africa, The United Arab Emirates, Australia, The Bahamas, Canada and New Zealand. With a library of over 5,000 hours of owned content across multiple genres, **Allen Media Group** provides video content to broadcast television stations, cable television networks, mobile devices, multimedia platforms, and the World Wide Web. Our mission is to provide excellent programming to our viewers, online users, and Fortune 500 advertising partners.

Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures is a full-service, theatrical motion picture distribution company specializing in wide release commercial content. ESMP released 2017’s highest-grossing independent movie, the shark thriller **47 METERS DOWN**, which grossed over \$44.3 million. In 2018, ESMP also released the critically-acclaimed and commercially successful Western **HOSTILES**, the historic mystery-thriller **CHAPPAQUIDDICK** and the sequel to **47 METERS DOWN**, **47 METERS DOWN: UNCAGED**. The digital distribution unit of **Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures**, **Freestyle Digital Media**, is a premiere multi-platform distributor with direct partnerships across all major cable, digital and streaming platforms. Capitalizing on a robust infrastructure, proven track record and a veteran sales team, **Freestyle Digital Media** is a true home for independent films.

In 2016, **Allen Media Group** purchased **The Grio**, a highly-rated digital video-centric news community platform devoted to providing African-Americans with compelling stories and perspectives currently underrepresented in existing national news outlets. **The Grio** features aggregated and original video packages, news articles and opinion pieces on topics that include breaking news, politics, health, business and entertainment. Originally launched in 2009, the platform was then purchased by NBC News in 2010. The digital platform remains focused on curating exciting digital content and currently has more than 100 million annual visitors.

For more information, visit:
www.entertainmentstudios.com