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## **MTV's Brian Graden to Judge American Readers Theater Association's National Conference at El Camino College**

MTV's Brian Graden will be a featured judge at the American Readers Theater Association's national conference and championship at 3:30 p.m. May 4 in El Camino College's Marsee Auditorium.

Graden is the president of entertainment, MTV Networks Music Channels and president of Logo. As president of entertainment, Graden leads and provides programming oversight to all the MTVN music networks including MTV, VH1, MTV2 and CMT. In this capacity, all music, news, specials, production, series development and artist relations teams for the individual music channels report to him. As Logo's president, he is responsible for all aspects of the channel created specifically for the LGBT audience.

Other celebrity judges for this event include: Sharon Lawrence, an Emmy-nominated actress/producer/singer best known for her role on *NYPD Blue*; Doug Spearman, television, stage and film actor, star of *Noah's Arc* on Logo; Michelle Peacock, former music industry executive and current executive at Ascent Media and Visiontext; and John Baxter, vocalist and guitarist in the '80s rock group Re-Flex, best known for the hit *The Politics of Dancing*.

Sponsored by the college's Speech Communication Department, the "Final Round" performance of the top four Readers Theaters in the nation will be staged at in the auditorium, an exciting event that is free and open to the public.

Readers Theater is small group performance. Each year, the American Readers Theater Association sponsors a championship tournament in which small groups of students from colleges across the country perform (each no longer than 25 minutes) of various pieces of literature, including prose, poetry, plays, or original scripts.

Additionally, the audience votes for their favorite theater, and the theater with the highest votes wins the "Audience Favorite Award," regardless of the results from the judges.

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