



CONTACT: Brian Rossiter
Senior publicist
215-351-2066
brossiter@whyy.org

**FRESH AIR WITH TERRY GROSS TO BE INDUCTED
INTO THE NATIONAL RADIO HALL OF FAME**

PHILADELPHIA, June 29, 2012 — *Fresh Air with Terry Gross*, WHYY's popular program distributed by NPR, will be inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame alongside radio legends such as Howard Stern and Jack Cooper.

Gross and *Fresh Air* staff celebrated the 25th anniversary of the program's first national broadcast May 11. Gross has hosted *Fresh Air* since its 1975 launch as a local program produced out of WHYY in Philadelphia, where it is still produced.

A Peabody Award-winning weekday magazine highlighting contemporary arts, culture and political issues, *Fresh Air* has grown to become one of public radio's most beloved programs, with 4.7 million people tuning in to the show's intimate conversations on more than 500 NPR stations across the country as well as in Europe on the World Radio Network.

The program and the other six members of the National Radio Hall of Fame's Class of 2012 will be inducted in November.

"This is a special recognition for Terry and the entire *Fresh Air* team," said Bill Marrazzo, WHYY president and CEO. "It's an honor to see this informative, enjoyable public radio program be congratulated alongside so many other radio greats."

Gross began her radio career in 1973 at public radio station WBFO in Buffalo, New York. There she hosted and produced several arts, women's and public affairs programs, including *This Is Radio*, a live, three-hour magazine program that aired daily. Two years later, she joined the staff of WHYY-FM in Philadelphia as producer and host of *Fresh Air*, then a local, daily interview and music program. In 1985, WHYY-FM launched a weekly half-hour edition of *Fresh Air with Terry Gross*, which was distributed nationally by NPR.

Since 1987, a daily, one-hour national edition of *Fresh Air* has been produced by WHYY-FM. The program is broadcast on 566 stations and became the first nondrivetime show in public radio history to reach more than 5 million listeners (cumulative) weekly in fall 2008, a presidential election season. Gross has done about 6,500 *Fresh Air* shows.



Fresh Air with Terry Gross has received a number of awards, including the prestigious Peabody Award in 1994 for its “probing questions, revelatory interviews and unusual insight.” America Women in Radio and Television presented Gross with a Gracie Award in 1999 in the category of National Network Radio Personality. In 2003, she received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s Edward R. Murrow Award for her “outstanding contributions to public radio” and for advancing the “growth, quality and positive image of radio.” In 2007, Gross received the Literarian Award. In 2011, she received the Authors Guild Award for Distinguished Service to the Literary Community.

Gross is the author of “All I Did Was Ask: Conversations with Writers, Actors, Musicians and Artists,” published by Hyperion in 2004.

###

