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## **Spike TV Greenlights New Line Television's "Blade" for Series Series to Premiere in June 2006**

LOS ANGELES (Jan. 31, 2006) – Spike TV has given the green light for a television series based on Marvel Super Hero "Blade" as the network's first original scripted series. The network has ordered 11 one-hour episodes, in addition to the previously announced two-hour kick-off episode, to be produced by New Line Television, set to commence production in Vancouver this spring. "Blade" premieres in June 2006.

The weekly series will maintain continuity with New Line Cinema's highly successful movie trilogy but will bring the main character into a new storyline with new characters. The title character is a half-man, half-vampire who uses his superhuman powers and skills to fearlessly battle the demonic creatures of the night in a blood-drenched crusade to prevent the ascendance of vampires over mankind.

Kirk "Sticky" Jones ("Over There") stars in the leading role of "Blade." Kirk Jones first became widely known as "Sticky Fingaz," the front man for the hip-hop group Onyx. He later appeared and starred in a number of feature films including Clockers, Dead Presidents and Flight of the Phoenix. Most recently, Jones appeared regularly on FX's "Over There" and "The Shield." Rounding out the series cast are Jill Wagner ("Monk"), Neil Jackson ("Stargate SG-1"), Nelson Lee ("Traffic," the TV mini-series) and Jessica Gower ("Blurred").

Acclaimed screenwriter and executive producer David S. Goyer ( Blade trilogy and Batman Begins ) and popular comic book writer Geoff Johns who worked on the "Blade" pilot, have also signed on for the series production. The pilot is directed by Peter O'Fallon ("Suicide Kings," "American Gothic").

Bill McGoldrick, Vice President, Original Programming and Lisa Ullmann, Director of Original Programming, are executives responsible for production at Spike TV. Jim Rosenthal and Jon Kroll of New Line Television will serve as executive producers, along with

Avi Arad, Chairman and CEO of Marvel Studios, Ari Arad, Executive Vice President, Marvel Studios.

About New Line Television:

New Line Television is a division of New Line Cinema ([www.newline.com](http://www.newline.com)), the most successful independent film company in the world. The division develops, produces and distributes TV projects for the broadcast networks, cable and first-run syndication, as well as distributes New Line feature films across the television landscape. In addition to the production, marketing and distribution of theatrical motion pictures, New Line Cinema has divisions devoted to home entertainment, music, theater, merchandising and international. A pioneer in franchise filmmaking, New Line's Oscar-winning "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy is one of the most successful film franchises in history. New Line is a division of Time Warner, Inc.

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