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Media Alert

Sam Donaldson to appear in El Paso Saturday, August 23rd, 2008

ABC News veteran and El Paso native Sam Donaldson will serve as Master of Ceremonies for El Paso Opera's annual Encores & Overtures gala on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at the Camino Real Grand Ballroom.

The Gala will begin at 6:00 PM with cocktails and a silent auction, followed by a formal dinner and entertainment by El Paso Opera Artistic Director Maestro Raymond Harvey and the stars of El Paso Opera's upcoming production of *il Trovatore*. The evening will conclude with a dance featuring live music provided by El Paso's own *Azucar* band. Throughout the evening, Mr. Donaldson will share experiences as both a news correspondent and a devotee of classical music and opera.

Mr. Donaldson was born in El Paso. He received a Bachelor's degree from Texas Western College (now UTEP). As a college student, Mr. Donaldson began his career in broadcasting at the age of seventeen by working for local radio stations in El Paso. Since then, he has gone on to serve two appointments (non-consecutively) as chief White House Correspondent for ABC News, co-anchored the ABC News Sunday morning broadcast "This Week with Sam Donaldson & Cokie Roberts" and is currently appearing on "ABC News Now" the ABC News digital network. His daily half-hour show "Politics Live" is an unscripted dialogue with numerous guests discussing the top political news stories of the day.

After his appearance in El Paso, Mr. Donaldson will travel to Denver, Colorado to cover the National Democratic Convention.

Tickets to Encores & Overtures are now on sale. Individual tickets are \$150, and a table for 10, \$1500. To reserve a table, purchase tickets or for more information, please call El Paso Opera at 915-581-5534

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