



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Brotman•Winter•Fried Communications  
(703) 534-4600

Lisa Marie Czop; ext. 217; [lisa@bwfcom.com](mailto:lisa@bwfcom.com)

Mike Schaffer; ext. 214; [mike@bwfcom.com](mailto:mike@bwfcom.com)

## **Celebration of “Southland” Premiere Begins with Michael Cudlitz Meet and Greet at the National Museum of Crime and Punishment**

**Washington, D.C.** In a salute to the police officer he portrays in the gritty crime drama “Southland,” lead actor Michael Cudlitz will visit the **National Museum of Crime and Punishment (NMCP)** from 5:00-6:30 PM on January 7<sup>th</sup> to meet Washington residents and museum visitors. The meet and greet is a precursor to the Washington premiere of the applauded series, taking place that evening at the Park Hyatt Washington, D.C.

NMCP features over 600 unique artifacts related directly to law enforcement or criminal activity, creating a direct tie between the museum and the acclaimed television series. “The unique way Southland portrays life on the police force mirrors the unique artifacts the museum hosts to showcase the inner workings of the justice system and the criminals who have been captured within it,” says Janine Vaccarello, Chief Operating Officer of the museum. “Both the museum and the show offer a different take this genre, which is why we are thrilled to have such a prominent actor in the series take the time to visit our facility and meet his Washington-based fans.”

In the seven previously-aired episodes on NBC, Cudlitz plays veteran cop John Cooper, assigned to train young rookie Ben Sherman (actor Ben McKenzie). Sherman quickly learns that on-the-job training is nothing like his preparation at the Academy. In the new episodes airing on TNT beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>, the tables turn in the power struggle between Ben and John when Ben must face a difficult choice in dealing with his partner’s addiction to pain medication, without which he could no longer work in the field.

*Cudlitz will be signing autographs and taking photos with the general public on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM in the main lobby of the National Museum of Crime and Punishment. Free admission to the museum will be granted to anyone who states the password “SOUTHLAND” at the admissions desk on January 7<sup>th</sup> ONLY.*

### **About the National Museum of Crime & Punishment**

NMCP’s mission is to provide guests of all ages with a memorable insight into the issues of crime, crime fighting, and the consequences of committing a crime in America through a captivating interactive, entertaining and educational experience. The museum is located on 7th Street NW between E and F Streets in downtown Washington, D.C. at the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro (Arena exit). For more information, visit [www.crimemuseum.org](http://www.crimemuseum.org)

### **About Southland**

From Emmy Award winners John Wells, Ann Biderman and Chris Chulack comes a raw and authentic look at a police unit in Los Angeles. From the beaches of Malibu to the streets of East

Los Angeles, "Southland" is a fast-moving drama that will take viewers inside the lives of cops, criminals, victims and their families. The acclaimed drama series, formerly aired on NBC, finds new life on TNT beginning with an extended, commercial-free premiere Tues., Jan. 12 at 10 p.m. (ET/PT). For more information on the show, visit <http://www.tnt.tv/series/southland/>.

###