



Canada Award

LITTLE MOSQUE ON THE PRAIRIE

The winning of Canadian Cinemas' National awards by *Little Mosque on the Prairie* marks the first time for this series.

Created and supported by the Multicultural Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage since 1988, the Canada Award recognizes excellence in mainstream television programming that reflects the racial and cultural diversity of Canada. It aims to provide greater opportunities for ethnic and visible minority professionals within the broadcasting industry on both sides of the camera.

Set in the quiet town of Tarry, the first season of *Little Mosque on the Prairie* takes an unorthodox suburban look at a Muslim community and its attempt to live in harmony with the often skeptical, even suspicious, residents of their small town surroundings. This unique sitcom reveals that, although Islamic, we are all struggling to make sense of our lives, find the personal path and our attempts to balance our beliefs with religious laws.

Expanding the horizons of Muslim and non-Muslim relationships, the series joins in the decidedly effortful task of countering the prevailing public image of Muslims that appears almost daily in news reports from around the world. It is created by well-known Muslim Canadian writer and director Zana Khan, along with executive producer, executive producer by Way Leung and Paul Chernoff, and producing Michael Smith and Susan Francis Branson.

For *Little Mosque on the Prairie* represents the Muslim faith in the Muslim community as well as in Canada. Through the humor found in sociological situations and mutual misunderstanding, sincere human moments are brought to the forefront and used to illustrate the path that no community is homogeneous. For spiritual, social, career and education, we are all struggling to find the answers, the path and the individuals that live different religious backgrounds.

The series and its award-winning *Little Mosque on the Prairie* began its second season recently. It is a CBC, Muslim, and in this season will continue along its path. The first book, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, is a book. The series also is planning a traveling musical and comedy show called *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, which will tour through Ontario, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and finally Toronto.

Regardless of who we are, where we come from or what we believe, we believe in the values that drive the one-dimensional perception of a community by encompassing stereotypes that are identifiable to us. It is time and time again to better understanding among different cultural groups where prejudice and social divisions based on religion and ethnicity are a greater awareness of religious practices in relation to the society. *Little Mosque on the Prairie* reflects the diversity of our multi-cultural society.