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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ACTOR MICHAEL GROSS TO APPEAR AT THE 24TH ANNUAL
iHobby Expo™**

September 16, 2008. The Hobby Manufacturers Association Show Committee is pleased to announce that Actor Michael Gross, best known for his portrayal of the father Steven Keaton on NBC's award-winning *Family Ties*, will appear at the 24th Annual iHobby Expo™ on October 16 through October 18. Michael will join HMA and industry members at the Welcome Party on Thursday, October 16 at 5:30pm and will appear at the Expo during the trade day on Friday, October 17 and will sign autographs during the consumer day on October 18.

Michael is an avid model railroader. As a grandson and great-grandson of railroaders, he is also a life-long railroad fan, particularly of the former Santa Fe Railway. He is an amateur railway historian, photographer, and award-winning railroad modeler. He and his wife, Elza, also collect Santa Fe dining car china, silver, and other memorabilia. One of their great joys is riding trains together, wherever they can find them and, partly to ensure they will always have a train to ride, Michael and Elza are part owners of the Santa Fe Southern Railway, an eighteen-mile freight and passenger carrier headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico – finally, a train he doesn't have to pack away after Christmas!

Michael recently joined the cast of the CBS's number one-rated daytime drama, *The Young and the Restless*. Michael appears as "River Baldwin," an ex-60's radical who abandoned his wife and son when he escaped to Canada to avoid prosecution for a murder he claims he did not commit.

During his thirty-five year professional career, Michael has portrayed a remarkable range of characters, including recurring roles on both the

Drew Cary Show, as well as on NBC's acclaimed series, *ER*. He has appeared on the original *Law & Order* as well as its popular spin-offs, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. Other appearances include *The Outer Limits*, *Ally MacBeal*, *CSI: New York*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Boston Legal*, and *Medium*. He guest-starred with *Family Ties* veteran Michael J. Fox in Fox's farewell episode of *Spin City*.

His long list of made-for-television movies include his frightening portrayal of killer William Mattix in *The FBI Murders*; *Right To Die* with Raquel Welch; *F.D.R.: The Last Year*, with Eileen Heckart and Jason Robards; *Manhunt in the Dakotas* with Rod Steiger; *Little Gloria... Happy at Last*, with Angela Lansbury and Bette Davis; and, most recently, the HBO special, *Mrs. Harris*, with Annette Benning and Ben Kingsley.

Born and raised in the Midwest, Michael spent his school years in Chicago, and part of every summer in rural Iowa. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a B. A. in Speech and Theatre, and earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in acting from the School of Drama at Yale University. He married casting director Elza Bergeron in 1984. They have two children, Theodore and Katharine. Daughter Katie is the mother of Michael's two grandchildren, Nicholas and Allison. Michael and his wife divide their time among homes in Southern California, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

Michael has been active in various charitable pursuits. Some of his past work has included work with World Vision, animal welfare, anti-drug programs, responsible gun ownership, and AIDS research. He has been a spokesman for the ALS Association (Lou Gherig's disease). Michael and his wife are particularly active with Futures for Children, a sponsorship and self-help program working with Southwestern Native American tribes. They are Foundation Board members of the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Michael was, for many years, the national spokesman for Operation Lifesaver, a national safety organization devoted to railroad crossing safety. He is the recipient of the American Hero Award for his charitable activities.

For additional information, contact HMA at 973-283-9088 or visit www.ihobbyexpo.com.

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