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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Public Television Children’s Series Co-Produced by Best-Selling Author James Patterson and South Florida PBS Receives Seven Nominations for NATAS Suncoast Chapter Emmy Awards**

# **KID STEW**

## **Outstanding Children’ Program, Directing, and Talent Nominations**

The public television series **KID STEW**, a co-production of best-selling author James Patterson and South Florida PBS for elementary school kids celebrating imagination and creative expression, has received seven nominations for the 2018 Emmy ® award by the NATAS Suncoast regional chapter in three categories. All four episodes of the series’ debut season are nominated in the category “Children/Youth Teens” program for team of James Patterson, Frank Costantini, Brian Sitts, Scott Barnett, Johanna Vega and Tim Malloy; Caroline De Leon and Armando Bernal IV, two of the nine pre-teen hosts, are nominated as performers in the “Talent” category; and the series directors Frank Costantini and Brian Sitts received a nod for “Non-live Post Production” directing. South Florida PBS received a total of 21 nominations this year, announced on October 15, 2018. Winners will be announced on Saturday, December 1, 2018.

“We are thrilled to see so many nominations for ‘Kid Stew’ in its first season on the air,” said South Florida PBS Executive Vice President Bill Scott. “Congratulations to the production team and all of the kids in the cast for this outstanding level of recognition.”

“With every ‘Kid Stew’ show we want children to feel and understand that education can be rewarding, stimulating, and even – gasp – fun,” said series creator and co-producer James Patterson. “These are great kids, great directing and a great crew, and it’s an honor to be recognized for these efforts by our television peers.”

Co-producer South Florida PBS distributes the series nationally to public television stations via American Public Television (check local listings). The series is currently in production for a second season of episodes to air nationwide beginning May 2019. Season one will air on South Florida PBS in an encore presentation in December.

Along with Armando and Caroline, the kids cast includes Florida residents David Bolinger, Madison Maxwell, Satine Sorensen, Luke Nappe, Milena Rivero, Blake McCall and Nicholas Hernandez— and their mascot dog, Ozzie, who hang out in the clubhouse of elementary schoolers’ dreams between segments in which they time travel, conduct interviews with famous creatives, host newscasts, star in parody commercials, perform in music videos, read to animals, and more kid-centric cool.

In season one, interviews with authors Dave Barry, Brad Meltzer and Carl Hiaasen reveal their early inspirations for becoming writers, tracing powerhouse careers back to the moment in school when it clicked for them, and author Edwidge Danticat shares the inspiration of her native Haiti. NFL running back Kenyan Drake talks about the creativity required of athletes. Artists ranging from pinball machine designers to a chalk artist whose work appears three dimensional to Cosplay participants, a sculptor, amusement park animatronic designers and more demonstrate the limitless ways young viewers can find to express their creativity. Subtle suggestions to visit the library to further investigate interesting topics remind viewers that reading isn’t just something you have to do for school.

Series creator: James Patterson. Director: Frank Costantini. Head writer: Brian Sitts. Producer/Field Director: Scott Barnett. Supervising Producer: Johanna Vega. **KID STEW** is made possible by support from The Eunice Joyce Gardiner Charitable Foundation. Follow the series on Instagram (KidStewTV), Facebook, and Twitter (@stew\_tv).

#### **About NATAS Suncoast Chapter**

The Suncoast Chapter is the regional chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences that represents Florida; Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, & New Orleans, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; Thomasville, Georgia; and Puerto Rico.

#### **About James Patterson**

**KID STEW** series creator James Patterson, the number three kids author in the United States with best-selling children’s titles including the I Funny and Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life series, and Word of Mouse (along with his hundreds of bestsellers for those kids’ parents), has long been an advocate for children’s literacy, founding the Read Kiddo Read initiative and spearheading grants for teachers to supplement their school libraries each year.

#### **About South Florida PBS**

South Florida PBS is Florida’s largest public media company, including Public Broadcasting stations WXEL-TV, serving the Palm Beaches and WPBT2, serving Miami-Dade and Broward counties. South Florida PBS connects organizations and institutions across our region and preserves South Florida’s history. Leading the way in this global society, South Florida PBS serves diverse communities from Key West to the Sebastian Inlet and from the Atlantic Ocean west to Lake Okeechobee. South Florida PBS is committed to creating and presenting unique arts, education and cultural heritage programming, and serves as a model for telling unique local stories across a variety of digital media platforms. National productions presented to public television stations by South Florida PBS include James Patterson’s *Kid Stew*, *Battleground Everglades*, *Changing Seas*, and *Blue Chip Kids*. For more information, visit <http://www.southfloridapbs.org/home/>.

#### **About APT:**

[American Public Television](#) (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the

nation's public television stations. For more than 10 years, APT distributed one-third or more of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. Founded in 1961, among its 250 new program titles per year, APT programs include prominent documentaries, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies. *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated, Cook's Country, AfroPoP, Rick Steves' Europe, Chris Kimball's Milk Street Television, Front and Center, Doc Martin, Nightly Business Report, Midsomer Murders, A Place to Call Home, Lidia's Kitchen, Globe Trekker, New Orleans Cooking with Kevin Belton, Simply Ming, and P. Allen Smith's Garden Home* are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT licenses programs internationally through its [APT Worldwide](#) service. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, [Create@TV](#) — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — is distributed by American Public Television. APT also distributes [WORLD™](#), public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](#).

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