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Breakthrough Press Contact:

Ellen Luo 212 868 6500 [ellen@breakthrough.tv](mailto:ellen@breakthrough.tv) [www.breakthrough.tv](http://www.breakthrough.tv)

**International star-studded gala promotes human rights organization, Breakthrough.**

NEW YORK CITY, November 20, 2006. The innovative human rights group, Breakthrough, hosted its annual gala at the **Puck Building, Friday November 10**, at 6:30 pm. The event raised close to \$300,000 that will be used to support Breakthrough's cutting-edge programs in the United States and India.

More than 300 guests attended the gala, including legendary soul and funk star **Asha Puthli**, and the anchor of PBS's *Wide Angle*, **Daljit Dhaliwal**. Actress **Pooja Kumar** (dubbed the Indian Angelina Jolie) served as MC of the evening, hosting keynote speaker **John Sykes**, President of Network Development at **MTV Networks**. The live auction was conducted by Sandhya Jain Patel of Christie's, and **well-known comedian, Dean Obeidallah**, performed a stand-up routine. The evening's program concluded with a dance performance by the winner of this year's Bhangra Blowout, Columbia University.

The money raised by the gala will be used to support Breakthrough's ground-breaking campaigns that create awareness about some of the most challenging issues facing the world today. Breakthrough's recent campaign on immigration, "*Value Families*," was recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative for bringing attention to unjust immigration laws in the United States. The bold "*What Kind of Man Are You?*" campaign won a silver and bronze medal at the Indian Advertising Agency Awards for advocating condom use in India to redress the problem of the 2 million married women infected with HIV, mostly by their husbands. Breakthrough is now gearing up for its new multi-media campaign, "*Is this Justice?*" which addresses the stigma and discrimination faced by HIV positive women in India. "Indian women are now facing a new form of violence and discrimination," says Mallika Dutt, Executive Director of Breakthrough. "We need to focus on the specific ways that women experience HIV/AIDS to better protect their human rights."

Using unconventional multi-media, including video games, documentaries, animations, music videos, and podcasts, Breakthrough raises awareness of social issues around the world.