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## Hal Sparks To Host Fourth Annual Los Angeles Organizing Awards, January 30

*Stand-up comedian, former host of "Talk Soup" on E! Entertainment Television and star of the acclaimed Showtime series "Queer As Folk" will serve as celebrity host in the event that honors the people, products and services that make the world neater and more productive.*

**Los Angeles, CA (January 15, 2009)** – Hal Sparks ("Queer as Folk) will host the 2009 Los Angeles Organizing Awards, honoring the best and the brightest in the professional organizing industry, Friday, January 30 at the luxurious Luxe Hotel Sunset Boulevard in Bel Air (Los Angeles), CA. As the host, Sparks will share his humorous personal experiences of working with a professional organizer.

"We're thrilled to welcome comedian Hal Sparks as the celebrity host of the Fourth Annual Los Angeles Organizing Awards," said John Trosko, President of NAPO-LA. "Sparks has an extraordinary charm in developing rapport with his audience and we're especially thrilled he has personal experience working with a professional organizer. His skillful comedy has the unique ability to break down barriers and return us to common interest, much in the way I remember comedians George Carlin and Steve Martin did. This year's Awards will be the biggest and best event we've ever produced, complete with a Hollywood-style red carpet. The public is invited to join in the fun, and learn firsthand about the most effective organizing strategies, products and services available."

A comedian, actor and musician, Hal Sparks began his career performing stand-up comedy by way of his home state, Kentucky and later, Chicago. After moving to Los Angeles, he crafted witty additions to VH1 programs, served as host for the 1999 season of "Talk Soup" on E! Entertainment Television, starred for five seasons as Michael Novotny in the acclaimed Showtime series "Queer As Folk" and currently voices the main character "Tak" on the Nickelodeon animated series "Tak and the Power of Juju." As a musician, Sparks is also the lead singer and guitarist for rock band, "Zero 1."

NAPO-Los Angeles - Host of the Los Angeles Organizing Awards

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The gala red carpet event, presented by the Los Angeles chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO-LA) and Presenting Sponsor Office Depot, celebrates professional organizers who set the standard for home and business productivity, and the products and services that help consumers and businesses organize themselves and their information, manage their time and control habits that can lead to clutter and chaos.

Los Angeles Organizing Awards' recipients are chosen by a popular national vote taking place October 31 through December 31 online at [www.organizingawards.com](http://www.organizingawards.com). The top three finalists are invited to attend the ceremony with a total of twenty awards presented, including: seven awards for organizing products and retailers, five awards for organizing services, five awards to organizing professionals and two awards to media outlets. The chapter will also honor several of its members with chapter awards. The "Volunteer of the Year Award" is presented to the chapter member with an exemplary record of service. The "Leading Edge Award" recognizes a NAPO-LA member whose actions and efforts elevate the quality or profile of professional organizers everywhere.

In addition, this year's "Special Recognition Award" will be presented by Office Depot and given to Stephen R. Covey, best-selling author, business leader and personal productivity pioneer.

A portion of proceeds from The Awards will benefit NAPO-in-the-Schools, a national community outreach program that brings basic organizing principals to students in all grade levels. The event is produced by NAPO-LA with production support by the Dave Linden Group, Inc. Office Depot is Presenting Sponsor. Additional sponsorship support has been provided by Green Plug. Event video produced by Corp Shorts and hosted by KNBC/KCAL news reporter and anchor, Angie Crouch.

**Awards Finalists, in alphabetical order:**

**Best Closet Design Firm:**

California Closets  
Closet Factory  
Get It Together LA!  
South Bay Closet Lady

**Best Garage Design Firm:**

Garage Envy  
Garage Tek  
OrganizIT!

**The Green Award for Most Eco-Friendly Organizing Product:**

Bamboo Laptop Stand from KangaRoom Storage  
Mrs. Meyers  
Packtoozi

## **The Green Award for Most Eco-Friendly Organizing Service:**

Hands On Organizing Services  
No Wire Hangers  
UCLA S.A.F.E. Collection Center

## **Best Office Organizing Product:**

Corky Wall Organizer from KangaRoom Storage  
Hanging File Folders from Pendaflex  
Shelf Conversions by ShelfGenie

## **Best Home Organizing Product:**

Complete Closet System from KangaRoom Storage  
Vital Records PortaVault from Securita  
Shelf Conversions by ShelfGenie

## **Most Helpful Organizing Technology:**

Anywhere Vault  
Microsoft Outlook  
Paper Tiger  
Quicken

## **Best National Organizing Television Show:**

Clean Sweep  
Mission Organization  
Real Life, Real Simple

## **Best Organizing Book:**

Knack, Organizing Your Home by Emily Wilksa  
Organize Your Office & Manage Your Time by Dawn Hansen & Tracey Turner  
The Floor is Not an Option, by Sheila G. McCurdy

## **Best Publication Featuring Organizational Information:**

Domino Magazine  
Organize Magazine  
Real Simple Magazine

## **Best Organizing Website or Blog:**

Jeri's Organizing & Decluttering News  
OnlineOrganizing.com  
Organize in Style

**Most Valuable Educational Resource:**

A Red Bench  
NSGCD  
OnlineOrganizing.com

**NAPO Los Angeles Chapter Awards:**

**Best Organizer as Coach or Mentor:**

Jean Furuya, The Office Jeanie  
Kristine Oller, Personalized Organization

**Most Innovative Organizer:**

Debbie Gilster, Center for Growth and Productivity  
John Trosko, OrganizingLA  
Peter Walsh. Peter Walsh Design

**Most Supportive or Organizer-Friendly Charity:**

Habitat for Humanity  
National Council of Jewish Women  
The Salvation Army

Additional chapter awards presented will include Volunteer of the Year Award, Raising the Bar Award, and The Leading Edge Award.

Tickets and additional details are available at [www.organizingawards.com](http://www.organizingawards.com)

**About Office Depot, Presenting Sponsor:**

Every day, Office Depot is Taking Care of Business for millions of customers around the globe. For the local corner store as well as Fortune 500 companies, Office Depot provides products and services to its customers through 1,705 worldwide retail stores, a dedicated sales force, top-rated catalogs and a \$4.9 billion e-commerce operation. Office Depot has annual sales of approximately \$15.1 billion, and employs about 49,000 associates around the world. The Company provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company, and currently sells to customers directly or through affiliates in 48 countries.

Office Depot's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ODP and is included in the S&P 500 Index. Additional press information can be found at: <http://mediarelations.officedepot.com>.

**About NAPO-Los Angeles:**

NAPO Los Angeles is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to developing, leading and promoting professional organizers and the benefits of better home and business organization. The founding chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers, "The Organizing Authority®," NAPO-LA provides members with a forum for networking, professional development and raising public awareness since 1985. The chapter produces the Los Angeles Organizing Expo as well as the Los Angeles Organizing Awards and is the recipient of the 2008 NAPO National President's Award for innovative contributions to the organizing industry. For details visit <http://www.napola.org> or <http://www.organizingawards.com>

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