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ARTS>WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER ANNOUNCES SPRING 2010 SEASON

New York's leading year-round presenter of free performing and visual arts welcomes spring with ambitious lineup, including New York Classical Theatre's production of William Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, Andrew Zuckerman's Wisdom Project Exhibition, and Bang on a Can Marathon

<http://www.artsworldfinancialcenter.com/>

New York, NY (March 12, 2010) – Arts World Financial Center today announced its Spring 2010 season, continuing its role as New York City's leading year-round showcase for free performing and visual arts with a diverse lineup of new work and world premieres.

The season kicks off with an ambitious residency by New York Classical Theatre, which will transform an unused storefront at One New York Plaza into the production studio for its 2010 season. Marking its first-ever indoor production, NYCT will stage William Shakespeare's *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* throughout the 3.5-acre World Financial Center (April 1-18).

Another centerpiece of the season is the U.S. premiere of *Wisdom: Dynamic Portraits* by Andrew Zuckerman, a multifaceted project inspired by the idea that one of the greatest gifts one generation can pass to another is its collective wisdom. The book, film, and exhibition by award-winning photographer and filmmaker Andrew Zuckerman create a record of a multicultural group of people who have all made their mark on the world. The artist travelled the globe to interview and photograph 50 of the world's most iconic figures over the age of 65, chosen in collaboration with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, exhibited at the World Financial Center as extraordinary large-format portraits of famous elders from the worlds of politics, science, sports, and the arts, including Madeleine Albright, Ravi Shankar, Clint Eastwood, Billie Jean King, Nelson Mandela, Jane Goodall, and Chinua Achebe. (April 29-May 23)

Other season highlights include:

Celebrate nature as talented artists, working in a traditional "street painting" technique, create a life-like *Koi Pond* -- commissioned by Arts World Financial Center -- using chalk pastels in honor of Earth Day's 40th Anniversary. (April 20-25)

With the U.S. premiere of *Weather Beacon*, sculptor Eric Guzman merges public wi-fi, structure, movement, and light into a kinetic sculpture that forecasts the weather in a flashing code, inviting a curious public to engage with both their visible and invisible surroundings. (May 3-December 31)

Compagnia de' Colombari's U.S. premiere of *More Or Less I Am* is a music-theater piece drawn from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself* (1855) that will be performed at a different NYC-area location each day between May 5-14, including the World Financial Center Winter Garden, Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem, and Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn. The work features original music by members of the genre-defying Brooklyn Rider and a cast of six actors, one mezzo soprano, one child, five musicians and several members of the audience. (May 7)

National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Teen Exhibition showcases film, video, animation, writing, photography, painting, sculpture, fashion, drawing, graphic design and ceramics by remarkable teenage artists who have earned national recognition through The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. (June 9-25)

Since its inception in 1988, over 2.5 million people have attended more than 2,500 free performances and events at the World Financial Center, making Arts World Financial Center the East Coast's largest presenter of free, year-round performing and visual arts. With an emphasis on commissioned works, site-specific installations, and premieres, Arts World Financial Center is the home of flagship annual events like the *Bang on a Can Marathon*, Silent Films/Live Music curated by WNYC's John Schaefer, and *Construction*, an exhibit featuring giant sculptures made entirely from cans of high-quality food which are ultimately donated to charity.

Selected season highlights, including dates and times, follow:

HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK

Co-presented by New York Classical Theatre and Arts World Financial Center

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Stephen Burdman

Open Rehearsals: March 1-25

Performances: April 1-3, April 6-11, April 13-18

All performances 7-9pm

World Financial Center Complex

Meet at Starbucks in the World Financial Center Courtyard, 220 Vesey Street entrance

New York Classical Theatre presents a free production of William Shakespeare's great tragedy, *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. Performed using NYCT's signature panoramic staging style, the production draws audience members into the world of the play as they follow the actors throughout the World Financial Center, whose 3.5-acre street and lobby levels will be the set for the sprawling production

Visitors can also catch the show's public rehearsals from March 1 through March 25 amid the hustle and bustle of the World Financial Center. Visit www.artsworldfinancialcenter.com each Monday in March for the upcoming week's rehearsal schedule.

New York Premiere

Suzanne and Mathilde Husky

FOREST

April 15-May 12

World Financial Center Winter Garden

Created from used clothing, *Forest* is a landscape, like bonsais, that embodies the beauty and drama of nature on a dwarfed scale. In this installation the viewer is inspired to visually meander, finding peacefulness in the whole and surprises in the details. The fabric patterns create textured foliage including blooming branches and scruffy grass. The multimedia practice of Suzanne and Mathilde Husky explore issues of exploitation of natural resources, landscape use, and globalization.

Forest is part of a benefit exhibition for ecoartspace entitled *What Matters Most?* This question was recently posed on the New York Times Dot Earth blog by science reporter Andrew Revkin to leading environmental experts, writers, and readers whose responses have been many. ecoartspace co-directors Amy Lipton and Patricia Watts have invited over 200 visual artists to create original works of art in response to blog entries of their choice. The works of art will be exhibited at Exit Art (April 15-28) and sold at the benefit event on Wednesday, April 28th, 2010. For more information, visit <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/02/15/what-matters-most/> and <http://ecoartspacewhatmattersmost2010.blogspot.com>.

U.S. Premiere

WISDOM: PORTRAITS BY ANDREW ZUCKERMAN

April 29-May 23

8am-8pm daily

World Financial Center Winter Garden

Wisdom, a multifaceted project, is inspired by the idea that one of the greatest gifts one generation can pass to another is its collective wisdom. The book, film, and exhibition by award-winning photographer and filmmaker Andrew Zuckerman creates a record of a multicultural group of people who have all made their mark on the world. The artist travelled the globe to interview and photograph 50 of the world's most iconic figures over the age of 65, chosen in collaboration with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, exhibited at the World Financial Center as extraordinary large-format portraits of famous elders from the worlds of politics, science, sports, and the arts, including Madeleine Albright, Ravi Shankar, Clint Eastwood, Billie Jean King, Nelson Mandela, Jane Goodall, and Chinua Achebe.

EARTH CELEBRATIONS' PUPPET & COSTUME WORKSHOPS

Through May 19

Wednesdays, 6–9pm

Saturdays, 12–4pm

World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery

Artists-in-Residence Michele Brody and Lucrecia Novoa lead the community in the creation of costumes and puppets for the Hudson River Pageant.

HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT

Saturday, May 22 (rain date Sunday, May 23)

1pm

Starts at the World Financial Center Plaza

A magnificent parade of giant puppets, costumes, music, dance, and performance celebrates the Hudson River, its history, current diversity of aquatic plant and animal species, natural habitats, and the restoration and future of the river as an estuarine sanctuary.

Arts World Financial Center Commission

KOI POND

April 20–23

Work-in-progress, 10am-5pm daily

April 24 & 25

Finished painting on view, 8am-5pm daily

World Financial Center Winter Garden

Celebrate nature as artists, working in a traditional "street painting" technique, create a life-like *Koi Pond* using chalk pastels in honor of Earth Day's 40th Anniversary. Witness this work of art coming to life in the Winter Garden April 20–23, with the fully realized painting on display for the public to enjoy for an additional two days.

WFC IN THE LOOP

April 16, May 21 & June 18

12–2pm

World Financial Center Winter Garden

Crafters of all levels are invited to join Arts World Financial Center's knitting and crocheting club, led by teacher and designer Ina Braun, to create garments for charitable organizations. This season we will create colorful cotton blankets for orphanages in Haiti.

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL DRIVE-IN

Thursday-Saturday, April 22–24

6-11 pm

World Financial Center Plaza

Thursday, April 22

THE SPIRIT OF SALSA (EL ESPIRITU DE SALSA)

Directed by Tim Sternberg and Francisco Bello

World Premiere Doc captures the history and culture of the New York Salsa scene.

A night of Salsa under the stars. Live music and dancing until sunset.

Friday, April 23

Presented in association with the Doha Tribeca Film Festival

BIG

Directed by Penny Marshall

Starring Tom Hanks

Classic family film, all-ages entertainment, pre-show “carnival” and more...

Saturday, April 24

Presented in association with ESPN

BIRTH OF BIG AIR

Directed by Jeff Tremaine

World Premiere Doc about BMX legend-in-the-making Mat Hoffman.

Pre-show includes BMX and X-treme sports demonstrations.

Film produced by Spike Jonze and Johnny Knoxville.

U.S. Premiere

WEATHER BEACON

Sculpture by Erik Guzman

May 3–December 31

World Financial Center Lower Plaza

Merging public wi-fi, structure, movement and light into an object that invites the public to connect to both the physical and invisible surroundings, Weather Beacon is a kinetic sculpture that emits a code of flashing lights, forecasting the weather for a curious public.

U.S. Premiere

COMPAGNIA DE' COLOMBARI MORE OR LESS I AM

Friday, May 7, 8pm

World Financial Center Winter Garden

Between May 5-14, Compagnia de' Colombari will be roaming New York with a new music-theatre piece, *More Or Less I Am*, based on Walt Whitman's poem “Song of Myself” (1855). The play will be performed at a different NYC-area location each day, ranging from Walt Whitman's birthplace in Huntington, Long Island to Fort Green Park in Brooklyn to the World Financial Center Winter Garden.

The piece is conceived and directed by the company's artistic director, Karin Coonrod, and features original music by members of the genre-defying Brooklyn Rider. The cast includes six actors, one mezzo-soprano, one child, five musicians and several audience members.

**AMERICAN BALLROOM THEATER
COLORS OF THE RAINBOW TEAM MATCH**

Wednesday, June 23

3–4:30pm (5th Graders) & 6–7:30pm (8th Graders)

World Financial Center Winter Garden

Talented dancers from NYC public schools compete for the grand prize as they Fox Trot, Merengue, Rumba, Swing and Tango their way to the gold.

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS TEEN EXHIBITION

June 9–25

Tuesday–Saturday, 12–4pm

World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery

This remarkable exhibition showcases film, video, animation, writing, photography, painting, sculpture, fashion, drawing, graphic design and ceramics by emerging teenage artists who have earned national recognition through The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. These talented teenagers follow in the footsteps of Andy Warhol, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, Philip Pearlstein, David Salle, Mel Bochner, Sylvia Plath, Tom Otterness and Zac Posen, who all won Awards when they were in high school.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is presented by The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to both identifying teenagers with exceptional artistic and literary talent and bringing their remarkable work to a national audience.

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