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EDITORS AND WRITERS PLEASE NOTE:

Complete program information is available online on the Ford web site.

Chronological listings of season events starts with: <http://www.fordtheatres.org/en/events/May.asp>
(click on arrows at the top of the month grid to look at other months)

Season events listings by artistic discipline: http://www.fordtheatres.org/en/events/index_eventtype.asp

A Ford fact sheet can be found at the end of this release.

High resolution images of season artists can be emailed to you upon request to Rochelle Fabb.

For Release March 28, 2007

FORD AMPHITHEATRE 2007 SUMMER SEASON OPENS MAY 11

*Ford's firsts in street dance, Ghanaian jazz-fusion, Colombian and Taiwanese artists;
a Bollywood version of "Alice in Wonderland," performance art by MacArthur "genius grant" fellow
Guillermo Gómez-Peña, and a tribute to Mexican rock 'n roll*

LOS ANGELES — Known for providing L.A. audiences with adventurous contemporary and world arts programming, the historic open air Ford Amphitheatre hosts an impressive range of music, dance, theatre, film and family events in summer 2007. The 23-week season runs from May 11 to October 14, opening with a brand new retro-slide show comedy performance by histo-tainer Charles Phoenix and closing with the Ford's first evening of music from Ghana.

The Ford Amphitheatre season is a program of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and is produced in collaboration with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. Complete 2007 season information is available on the Ford web site, www.FordTheatres.org or by calling the Ford box office, **323 GO 1-FORD (461-3673)**.

County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose Third District is home to the Ford, declared that, "The 2007 Summer Season has something for everyone – dance, world music, comedy, film, you name it. The Ford is a place where audiences can discover the whole spectrum of the arts in a beautiful, intimate setting."

Highlights of the Ford Amphitheatre 2007 Summer Season programming include:

FORD FIRSTS

In the first Ford presentation spotlighting Taiwanese artists, the popular and award-winning a cappella “air band” vocal group **SEMISCON** performs jazz, pop, classical, folk and contemporary music as part of the 7th Annual Taiwanese American Heritage Week Celebration (May 19).

A blend of symphonic sound and exotic music and dance of the Middle East is the centerpiece of a program by the **Los Angeles Jewish Symphony** and the ensemble led by **Yuval Ron**, who composed the score for the Oscar-winning *West Bank Story* (July 15).

The first Ford evening devoted to Colombian music presents traditions from across the country including **Petrona Martinez** (Afro-Caribbean region), **Banda de Flautas Chicha y Guarapo** (southern Andean region), **Jorge Veloza and Los Carrangueros** (northern Andean region), **Guafa Trio** (Central Andean music) and **Elda Florez** (Colombo-Venezuelan region) (August 5).

Latin American Cinemateca of L.A.'s **Mexico! Mexico! Rock! Rock! Rock!** is the first Mexican rock 'n roll program at the Ford combining a screening of 1960s film *A ritmo del twist* with Los Hooligans, The Crazy Boys, Los Rebeldes del Rock with a live music performance and art exhibit (September 30).

Breakin', pop-lockin', and uprokin' are all part of the first Ford show focusing on street dance with the artists of **Lux Aeterna Acrobatic Dance Company**, **Get Down Dolls**, **Outer Circle** and **Antics Performance** (October 5).

The Ford's first program of Ghanaian music brings four masters of Ghana's “highlife” jazz fusion genre to the stage: trumpeter-flugelhornist **Kpakpo Addo**, trumpeter-percussionist-composer **Eddie Quansah**, traditional drummer **Obo Addy** and his dancers, and funky-jazzy rap-style highlife interpreter **Gyedu Blay Ambolley** (October 14).

NEW THEATER & DANCE SERIES FEATURES

The weekend afternoon series in the Ford's 87-seat indoor theatre, [Inside] the Ford, devoted to playreadings for several summers, expands to include performance art, spoken word and sketch comedy. Newly christened **The [Inside] Performances**, the nine-event series features new and in-progress works by Latino and Asian/ Pacific Islander artists including Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Oliver Mayer, John Michael Garcés, Philip W. Chung, Chicano Secret Service, OPM (Asian comedy group), Prince Gomolvilas, Kristina Wong, Luis J. Rodriguez, Walter Wong, Melinda Corazon Foley, Gabriela Lopez de Dennis and Augusto Federico Amador. (June 3 to August 25)

Student and child tickets to Ford 2007 dance events for full-time students and children 12 and under will be available for **\$5** rather than the regular Ford student/child price of \$12 thanks to a grant from Target, sponsor of **Target Dance Series at the Ford**. Target strives to make the arts affordable and accessible to youth and families because the arts help foster an appreciation and understanding of various cultures and points of view.

PREMIERES

“Histo-tainer” **Charles Phoenix** opens the Ford 2007 season with a brand new retro slideshow performance, “The United States of Charles Phoenix: A Comedy about Mid-Century Americana,” celebrating 1950s and 60s theme parks, tourist traps, car culture, space age style and more (May 11).

The Target Dance Series at the Ford boasts several **world premiere** performances.

In a program entitled “**Unearthing Sleeping Beasts**,” three Los Angeles based companies reflect the raw energy and investigative spirit of L.A. contemporary dance in premieres probing the vices, truths and courage that lie beneath the surface in all of us.

Kate Hutter’s L.A. Contemporary Dance Company **PASSION PLAYS**

Maria Gillespie’s Oni Dance **THE SPLENDOR OF GRETEL**

Holly Johnston’s Ledges and Bones Dance Project **DEPARTURES FROM COMMON**

(July 6)

Pacifico Dance Company’s newest creation is a work that re-creates a small town fiesta in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas (July 28).

Hysterica Dance Company will feature premieres along with past Ford hits from *Noir*, *Threads* and *Sticks & Stones* on their tenth anniversary program, “Hysterica X” (August 3).

blue 13 Dance Company unveils ***Paheliya – The Story of Alice***, a two-night run of this **Bollywood version of *Alice in Wonderland*** (August 24 & 25)

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company’s “México y Su Costa de Oro” features the premiere of *La Guelaguetza*, a dance suite representing Oaxaca’s Guelaguetza celebration, the largest folk event in North America (October 6).

The Ahn Trio, the brilliant piano trio known for pushing the boundaries of chamber music, plays the West Coast premiere of **Kenji Bunch’s *Danceband*** along with music by Michael Nyman, Chick Corea and The Doors (June 1). The Ahn’s appearance is the Zev Yaroslavsky Distinguished Artist Event of the Ford 2007 season.

Great American-inspired chamber music by the **Cypress String Quartet**, narration by *American Soul* author Jacob Needleman and film montages by award winner Michael Schwarz fuse in the West Coast premiere of this thought provoking, multimedia event, ***Inspired by America*** (June 22).

The performance art piece ***Jukebox Stories*** by Prince Gomolvilas & Brandon Patton, a storytelling, song-singing, bingo-playing hit from Berkeley, has its L.A. premiere on The [Inside] Performances series. (June 3 & 10 at 1:00 p.m.)

State Street Ballet presents the Los Angeles premiere of **William Soleau’s full-evening ballet, *Carmen***, based on Bizet’s opera of the same name (August 17).

DEBUTS

Camerata Nordica, the conductor-less chamber orchestra recognized as the best ensemble of its kind in Sweden, makes its Los Angeles debut in a program featuring Scandinavian works and one of Beethoven's late quartets, Opus 132, arranged for string orchestra (September 27).

Inti-Illimani, Chile's legendary folk band, makes its Ford debut in a concert celebrating their 40th anniversary (July 13).

Performance artist **Guillermo Gómez-Peña** makes his initial appearance at the Ford in his most recent solo performance, *El Mexorcist 2: America's Most Wanted Inner Demon*, in which he navigates the contested terrain of the U.S.-Mexican border (July 7 in [Inside] the Ford).

Singer-songwriter-guitarist **Seu Jorge**, seen in the films *City of God* and *The Life Aquatic*, brings his samba-based sounds to the Ford for the first time in a shared bill with percussionist **Airto Moreira** called "Brazilian Beats." (July 14)

Last Remaining Seats, the film series in historic sites sponsored by the Los Angeles Conservancy, visits the Ford for the first time with the Venezuelan film co-presented by Latin American Cinemateca of L.A. (June 20).

RETURNING FAVORITES

The **Jazz Bakery**, which last presented at the Ford in 2005, is back with a program by **Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band** (June 10).

The **Brazilian Summer Festival**, in its 14th year at the Ford, presents a bill headlined by **Fundo de Quintal**, the "backyard samba" band (June 17).

Fiesta Argentina contrasts classic tangos by Argentine singer **Guillermo Galve** with cutting-edge electronica tango by Argentina's Grammy-nominated **Tanghetto** in its third season at the Ford (August 18).

The renowned **Trio Los Panchos**, last seen at the Ford in 2004, returns with an evening of romantic Mexican songs known as "boleros" (September 8 & 9).

The FOCUSfish Flying Circus, a sold-out hit in 2006, expands to two nights in 2007 (September 21 & 22)

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2006-07 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.

FORD FACTS

COMPLETE INFORMATION

www.FordTheatres.org

THEATERS

Ford Amphitheatre – outdoor, 1,241 seats

[Inside] the Ford – indoor, 87 seats

LOCATION

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068

Just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios

PURCHASING TICKETS

Online: www.FordTheatres.org (starting April 11)

Phone: 323 GO 1-FORD (461-3673)

In Person: Ford Box Office, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068

Box office hours:

April - 12 noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday

May 1 through October 14 - 12 noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday

PARKING

On-site, stacked parking:

\$5 per vehicle for evening shows

\$1 per vehicle for morning family shows

FREE, non-stacked parking & FREE shuttle to the Ford (evenings only):

Universal City Metro Station lot at Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga

The Ford shuttle stops in the “kiss and ride” area and cycles every 15 to 20 minutes.

PICNICKING & FOOD AT THE FORD

Grounds open for picnicking two hours before show time.

Box Dinners may be ordered in advance through Crumble Catering, 310 652-3797.

A wide variety of food and drink is available for purchase on site.

SPECIAL SERVICES

The Ford is disabled accessible. Portable wireless listening devices are available upon request.

SEASON AND SERIES SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs

Flavor Pill

KPFK Radio, 90.7 FM

L.A. Weekly

Macy's (Big!World!Fun! family series)

SoCal.com (The [Inside] Performances series)

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (Vintage Evenings at the Ford chamber music series and Big!World!Fun! family series)

Target (Target Dance Series at the Ford)

Telefutura KFTR Channel 46

The Edmund D. Edelman Foundation for Music and the Performing Arts (Vintage Evenings at the Ford chamber music series)

The James Irvine Foundation (The [Inside] Performances series)

The Nissan Foundation (Big!World!Fun! family series)

Tu Ciudad