



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2006

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WATTS TOWERS ARTS CENTER PRESENTS:

Spirits of the Ancestors: A Continuum

Featuring S. Pearl Sharp and the Nate Morgan Ensemble

LOS ANGELES, CA—The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is proud to present A *Women's Month Celebration* at the Watts Towers Arts Center. The opening celebration will showcase collaborative work between Watts Towers Arts Center Poet Laureate S. Pearl Sharp, a nationally recognized filmmaker and writer, and the Nate Morgan Ensemble with Nate Morgan who leads the Jazz Mentorship Program (JMP)—a program connecting young people to jazz by providing opportunities to listen to and perform with locally based jazz masters. The opening will take place on Sunday, March 25, 2007, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Noah Purifoy Gallery at Watts Towers Art Center.

S. Pearl Sharp is a writer, actress and filmmaker. Her published work includes poetry volumes: *In The Midst of Change*, *Soft Song*, and *Typing in the Dark*, plays: *The Sistuhs*, *Dearly Beloved*, and *There's a Brown Girl in the Ring*, and a stage adaptation of essays by actress Beah Richards. As a filmmaker, Sharp has produced the award-winning *Back Inside Herself*, *Life Is A Saxophone*—a documentary on poet Kamau Daa'ood, *Picking Tribes*, and *The Healing Passage: Voices From The Water*. Sharp's commentaries and essays can be heard on NPR Radio.

Nate Morgan has recorded three albums with Nimbus Records: *Journey Into Nagrita*, *Retribution*, *Reparation*, and *Live In Santa Barbara*. While at Motown Records, he worked with such stellar musicians as Willie Hutch, Rufus and Chaka Khan, Gary Bartz, and Ronnie Laws. He has performed with many musicians such as the Pan Afrikan Arkestra, Roy Middleton, Hubert Laws, the John Carter/Bobby Bradford Quintet, the Young Hearts, Sweet Baby Jai, the Sylvers, Al McKibbons, Phil Ranelin, and Build an Ark. For the last two years, Morgan has lead an ensemble, featuring drummer Sonship Theus, vibraphonist Onaje Murray, and bassist Nedra Wheeler. He serves as a mentor and performs in the JMP, sharing his talent with aspiring musicians.

Spirits of the Ancestors: a Continuum features artwork commissioned by DCA to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center which will be exhibited during the celebration. The internationally acclaimed, local artists will showcase original works commemorating the past, the present, and the future. The show is curated by Rosie Lee Hooks and Rogelio Acevedo, and artwork is available for viewing March 25, 2007 to July 29, 2007.

The Watts Towers Arts Center is a facility of the Department of Cultural Affairs and provides quality arts programming to the Watts community. It is located at 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, 90002. For more information, call 213.847.4646.

(more)



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ABOUT DCA

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) serves as a leader to generate and support high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA also advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. It provides arts and cultural programming in numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and several arts and education programs for young people. The Department operates two historic monuments, directs public art projects, and manages the City's Arts Development Fee, Art Collection, and Murals Program. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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