



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2012

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City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
and
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center
present the

31st Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 29, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
and the

36th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 30, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
at the
Watts Towers Arts Center Campus

Los Angeles - An all-star line-up of world class musicians, singers, and dancers will come together once again at the **31st Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and the **36th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** on Saturday, September 29, and Sunday, September 30, 2012, to celebrate ***Watts Towers Arts Center: The First 51 Years, 1961-2012 - Where Truth & Art Connect***. The festivals run both days from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

These arts festivals are free events for the entire family. They are presented by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center under Artistic Directors, Rosie Lee Hooks, Patrice Rushen, and Munyungo Jackson.

In celebration of the Watts Towers Arts Center's first 51 years, the festival's line-up will take the audience into a musical journey around the world beginning on Saturday with a synthesis of pre-Columbian and contemporary music and dance in the ancient Mexican tradition performed by the **Cuauhtemoc Mexica Dance Group**. The program also includes the North Indian classical percussionist **Debasish Chaudhuri**, the Brazilian **Carlinois Pandeiro De Ouro, Munyungo Jackson** representing the African Diaspora, and **Ndugu Chancler** who celebrates his 60th birthday with his **Drum Set at 60**.

Saturday's Masters of Ceremonies are **James Janisse** and **Ndugu Chancler**.

Italian writer **Mary Bucci Bush** will present her debut novel *Sweet Hope* in the Noah Purifoy Gallery. The book describes the friendship between one Black and one Italian family scrambling to survive on a Mississippi cotton plantation at the turn of the century.



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Sunday's celebration opens with the Yoruba traditional drum ensemble **Alaadun** with the **Watts-Willowbrook Conservatory String Ensemble** performing classical and contemporary compositions. Also on stage will be **Quattro**, a fusion of Latin, pop, jazz, and classical music; Italian special guest **Andrea Marcelli** and the **Ray Bailey Trio** playing blues based jazz and funk, followed by the **Azar Lawrence Ensemble**. The **Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars** featuring **Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Justo Almario, Munyungo Jackson, and Reggie Hamilton** will close the weekend celebration.

Sunday's Masters of Ceremonies are **Kamau Daáood** and **James Janisse**.

The festivals' activities and programs also include the arts exhibition **BAILA con Duende**; guided tours of the Watts Towers; supervised children's activities; and food along with arts and crafts for sale. Both festivals take place at DCA's Watts Towers Arts Center Campus at: 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002. For more information, please call 213.847.4646 or visit www.wattstowers.org.

The Campus is easily accessible from: 1) the 105-E freeway at the Wilmington Avenue by taking Exit #10; or 2) the 108th Street Bus Stop, the 305 and 612 routes; or 3) the 103rd Street / Kenneth Hahn Station via Metro's Blue Line. Self-parking and valet parking are free.

Schedule of Events for the Festivals:

31st Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival

Saturday, September 29, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Masters of Ceremonies: **Ndugu Chancler** and **James Janisse**

- 11:00 a.m. **Cuahtemoc Mexica Dance Group**
- 12:00 p.m. **Maestro Debasish Chaudhuri**
- 12:30 p.m. **Mary Bucci Bush "Sweet Hope" Book Reading and Signing**
Noah Purifoy Gallery
- 1:00 p.m. **Carlinhos Pandeiro De Ouro**
- 2:00 p.m. **Juan Carlos Blanco & Omo Ache Afro Cuban Music & Dance Co.**
- 3:00 p.m. **Munyungo Jackson presenting "The African Diaspora"**
- 4:00 p.m. **Ndugu Chancler's "Drum Set at 60"**



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36th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival

Sunday, September 30, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Masters of Ceremonies: **Kamau Daáood** and **James Janisse**

- 10:30 a.m. **Alaadun**
- 11:30 p.m. **Watts-Willowbrook Conservatory String Ensemble**
- 12:30 p.m. **Quattro**
- 1:30 p.m. **Andrea Marcelli Trio featuring Mitch Forman & Alphonso Johnson**
- 2:30 p.m. **Ray Bailey Trio**
- 3:30 p.m. **The Azar Lawrence Ensemble**
- 4:30 p.m. **JMP All Stars featuring Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler, Bobby Rodriguez, Justo Almario, Munyungo Jackson, and Reggie Hamilton**

Additional Festival Activities:

Guided Tours of the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Supervised Children’s Activities

12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Universal Drum Circle Led by Matt Gibson III

Kehinde, Stilt dancer

Exhibitions at the Watts Towers Campus:

...at the Noah Purifoy Gallery and the Charles Mingus Gallery:

BAILA con Duende
By Black Artists In Los Angeles
Curator Lili Bernard

...at the Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard Gallery:

Permanent Exhibition: International Music Instruments



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About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 26 million annual visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through: grant making, marketing, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and building partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.

DCA's operating budget and managed portfolio totaled \$38.2 million in fiscal year 2010/11. It consisted of: \$9.5 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP); \$8.9 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; \$8.7 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program (ADF); \$7.7 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; and over \$3.4 million in private and public funds raised from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors.

DCA significantly supports artists and cultural projects through its Public Art Division by administering a portfolio totaling \$18.2 million in PWIAP and ADF funds in FY10/11. DCA's Marketing and Development Division has raised over \$19 million since FY07/08 to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts and cultural organizations for special grant initiatives and to support DCA's special programming and facilities. DCA also grants approximately \$2.2 million annually to over 280 artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division.

DCA provides arts and cultural programming through its Community Arts Division, managing numerous neighborhood arts and cultural centers, theaters, historic sites, and educational initiatives. DCA's Marketing and Development Division also markets the City's arts and cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative catalogs, publications, and promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website visited by over 3 million people annually.

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