

October 19, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**JOHN ANSON FORD AMPHITHEATRE -
PROPOSED SCHEDULE
“FORD AMPHITHEATRE – 2006 SEASON”
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the proposed roster for the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre's 2006 season.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to make the necessary expenditures within the approved 2005-2006 budget to implement the program.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is the annual implementation of the 2006 summer performing arts series in the historic Ford Amphitheatre.

The roster proposed for the 2006 Summer Partnership Program Season includes forty-six arts organizations producing sixty-seven events. The proposed roster brings seventeen new arts organizations to the Ford season. It is anticipated that the Ford Theatre Foundation will provide resources for approximately twelve additional performances for young audiences, three additional chamber music concerts, a special distinguished artist event and a play reading series. Overall, the proposed schedule is consistent with previous Ford Amphitheatre seasons, reflecting the artistic merit, cultural diversity and geographic range of Los Angeles County.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
October 19, 2005
Page 2

The Arts Commission began programming the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in 1993. To schedule the 2006 Ford summer season, the Arts Commission sent requests for proposals to more than 700 Los Angeles County arts organizations; 56 applications were received and reviewed by staff. Selections were based on artistic merit, producing experience, fiscal stability, suitability of proposed project to the venue and diversity in programming. On October 17, 2005, the Arts Commissioners reviewed and discussed the attached proposed roster as a committee of the whole.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility as the proposed 2006 series will

- 1) provide the public with affordable access to quality arts programs and
- 2) further public private partnerships within the Los Angeles arts community.

FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING

Funds have been allocated for this purpose as part of the Arts Commission's Fiscal Year 2005-2006 budget. Additional revenue comes from rental of the theatre, concessions, and donations from the Ford Theatre Foundation.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zucker
Executive Director

LZ:DP
Attachments (1)

c: Director, Parks and Recreation

FORD AMPHITHEATRE
PROPOSED 2006 SUMMER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SEASON

*indicates organizations new to the Partnership Program.

Afrasia Productions*: *Jazz and The New Songbook Artists*

Vocalist Carmen Lundy and other top jazz talent kick-off an international tour showcasing original works.

ArtWallah*: *Artwallah Festival 2006 "The Blend"*

Concert featuring the diversity of South Asian diasporic voice through a line-up of pioneering musicians.

BARE Dance Company*: *Deconstructed*

Mike Esperanza's new contemporary dance group premieres an evening-length work that peels away the influence of media on society to expose and celebrate the soul in its raw form.

Bluegrass Association of Southern California: *Bluegrass at the Ford*

Annual concert presenting some of the best in contemporary and traditional American Bluegrass Music.

Brazilian Nites Productions/Brazilian Women's Group: *Brazilian Summer Festival*

Annual festival featuring artists from Brazil and dancing on stage, as well as arts and crafts booths.

Celtic Arts Center: *Celtic Arts Center Concert Series*

3rd annual program of Celtic music, song and dance – both traditional and contemporary.

City Ballet of Los Angeles*: *Behind the Red Door*

Premiere of a full evening cabaret style ballet exploring the Greenwich Village jazz scene of the 1950s and celebrating the music of John Coltrane.

DMG Music Association*: *Quintet Guadalajara*

3rd Annual Beverly Hills International Music Festival, in its Ford debut, presents this piano quintet from Mexico in a program celebrating works of Mexican composers and commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Shostakovich.

Dunbar Economic Development Corporation*: *Live on Central Avenue*

Artistic Director of the Central Avenue Jazz Festival presents a celebration of the Avenue's rich cultural heritage with performances by Los Angeles classic jazz icons linked through reenactments of history.

Film Independent [FIND]: *Los Angeles Film Festival*

Annual week of interactive, event-orientated screenings.

Floricanto Dance Theatre: *Todavía Aquí/Still Here*

30th Anniversary culminating performance with representative highlights from the company's extensive repertory.

FOCUSfish performance fitness center*: *The FOCUSfish Flying Circus*

String Theory, Ledges and Bones, MyoKyo Dance and others from Hollywood's home for dance and circus artists combine efforts to create an exciting estuary of exploding visuals and athletic acumen.

Foundation for Progress and Education: *Moon Over Madness Too!*

Live circus spectacle resurrecting the insanity of the original Ford production of ten years ago, featuring the best of Cirque du Soleil together with world renowned variety performers, guest celebrities and the Duke McVinnie Orchestra.

Fountain Theatre: *Sonidos Gitanos (Gypsy Flamenco)*

Maria Bermudez returns with her acclaimed troupe from the cradle of Flamenco, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain.

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company*: *Mexico: Mi Tierra y Mis Pasiones*

The company's Ford debut will feature *De Cara al Mar*, a new collaborative work between artists of Los Angeles and Mexico exploring the dance traditions of Veracruz.

Hollywood Arts Council: *Pilgrimage 2006*

Tribute concert to the roots of rock and roll: Rhythm & Blues. Legendary DJ Art Laboe will be honored.

Immigrant American Foundation: *Guatemala: The Soul of the Earth*

A journey through Guatemala guided by *Ballet Folkorico y Moderno Nacional de Guatemala*.

INCA, The Peruvian Ensemble: *Fiesta Argentina 2006*

The Otero Dance Company, Julian Cordoba trio, Tango for 5, and singers Esther Segovia and Martin de Leon in a sequel program that continues the exploration of Argentine folk and Tango music and dance.

The Instrumental Women Project: *Lady Jazz 2006*

This year the all-woman ensemble pays tribute to the accomplishments of little known, female blues instrumentalists and vocalists who helped shape the genre during its early evolution.

The Instrumental Women Project / J&V Music Affairs Plus: *Gospel Jubilee*

Soloists, ensembles & choirs perform music stemming from the tradition of the African American church experience.

Kim Eung Hwa Korean Dance Academy: *Innovative Traditions*

A cross-Pacific collaboration. Korean and 2nd and 3rd generation Korean-American dancers and musicians together explore the melding of traditional and contemporary artforms.

Latin American Cinemateca of L.A.: *A Tribute to Nini Marshall*

California premiere screening of the film *Casamiento en Buenos Aires* (1940), preceded by a live musical tribute to the great Argentine comedienne, actress and singer.

Los Angeles Jewish Symphony: *AHAVAH ~ From Israel with Love*

Concert showcasing the talents of Israeli artists and composers. Guest artists will include Noa Dori, David D'Or and violinist Keren Tenenbaum. "Meet the composer" sessions will be held the week prior.

Musica Angelica: *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*

Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra in a program featuring Vivaldi's well known masterwork.

Outfest: *Outfest 2006 Under the Stars*

Five-night screening series that will be a highlighted component of Outfest 2006: The 24th Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Pacifico Dance Company: *Mexico: Pasos y Zapateados*

Pacifico returns with a new suite of dances revealing the mutual interchange of culture between Mexico and Spain, its influence on the evolution of Spanish culture and its far reaching influence throughout Mexico.

Shin Dance Company*: *Stream, River, Ocean*

In a project intended to breakthrough stereotypical images of Chinese dance, the company's 26 dancers will explore forms beyond the traditional in a new work using an analogy with water to illustrate their passion for dance.

Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound*:

sound. at the Ford Amphitheatre: Roscoe Mitchell and Joseph Jarman

Concert of experimental jazz by world renowned founding members of the Art Ensemble of Chicago.

Stage of the Arts, Inc. / AfroCuban Research Institute*:

The Old Man and the Sea (Cubans in Hollywood)

Multimedia concert presented as the main event of a year-long arts and humanities project, *Cubans in Hollywood*. Concert to be held on the 45th anniversary commemorating the passing of Ernest Hemingway.

Star Entertainment & Education Group:

Fiesta Mexicana IV - Sones, Bailes y Cantares

Fourth annual benefit variety show featuring the rich diversity of folkloric music and dance from Mexico.

Star Entertainment & Education Group: La Orquesta de Baja California

First-time appearance in Los Angeles of the world renowned, Latin-Grammy award winning orchestra in a popular program featuring the music of Mexico's most beloved ranchera composer, Jose Alfredo Jimenez.

TAIKOPROJECT*: Rhythmic Relations

A celebration of American Taiko drumming in Los Angeles. Four Taiko ensembles spanning multiple generations perform contemporary arrangements of traditional taiko songs together with new collaborative work incorporating taiko with hip hop dance, beatboxing, step dancing, and more.

TRIP Dance Theatre & Regina Klenjoski Dance Company: Beloved Rhythm

An evening of contemporary dance premieres set to original music commissioned from composers Charlie Campagna, Ron Bartlett and Moira Smiley.

uniCvisions*: Istanbul Ballet's East Side Story

American premiere of a 2002 dance-theatre piece originally staged by the Istanbul National Opera and Ballet. 39 members of the original cast join local talent to remount the production that sets a West Side Story-like tale in the Cholera district of Istanbul.

Viver Brasil Dance Company:

The Magic Tales of Yabas (Queens) and Obas (Kings)

Sequel program of Afro-Brazilian sacred and regional carnival dance and music traditions.

Winifred R. Harris' Between Lines: A Kaleidoscope of Years Gone By

Retrospective comprised of signature dance pieces spanning the years 1992-2006, plus one premiere.

Young Artists International: Bassiona Amorosa

Concert featuring the double-bass virtuosi quartet from Munich (recipient of the European Kulture prize).

Proposed events from the following organizations are also still under consideration for inclusion in the season:

Bilingual Foundation of the Arts: *Maria La O in Concert*

Concert of excerpts from the rarely-performed Cuban zarzuela (operatta) by Ernesto Lecuona.

blue13 Dance Company*: *Dil ka Sapna: Dream from the Heart*

East Indian Bollywood dance performance inspired by "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Caravan Productions*: *Over the Rainbow...the journey continues*

Harold Arlen Centennial Celebration – The Three Crooners with a big band and film clips, hosted by Sam Arlen.

FanFaire / Center for Cultural Innovation*: *Celebrating Mario Lanza*

85th birthday tribute concert to Mario Lanza featuring Tenor Peter Buchi.

The Instrumental Women Project / Mariachi Divas: *Mariachi Divas at the Ford*

A festive celebration of Latino culture, with a focus on the rich tradition of all-woman mariachi bands.

REPRISE! Broadway's Best in Concert:

2nd Annual REPRISE! Best of Broadway at the Ford

Musical theatre's brightest performers in a staged concert presentation of some of Broadway's most beloved songs.

Theatre Perception Consortium*: *North on South Central Ave.*

Over twenty actors, singers and dancers, together with an on-stage hot jazz band, recreate the verve of Los Angeles' Central Avenue during the '30s and '40s.

Vox Lumiere: *Metropolis*

Radical retelling of Fritz Lang's 1927 silent film through an interdisciplinary, multimedia production combining live rock-operatic music, theatre, dance and film.

FORD THEATRE FOUNDATION PROGRAMMING

- ***Big!World!Fun! Family Series***

The popular multicultural performing arts series returns to the Ford on Saturday mornings. Admission for this award winning series is free for children and CalWorks families (with just a nominal \$5 admission charge for other adults). Artists currently under review.

- ***Chamber Music Under the Stars***

A longstanding Ford tradition continues. Artists currently under review.

- ***Zev Yaroslavsky Distinguished Artist Event***

The 2nd in an annual series of events made possible by the Yaroslavsky Endowment.

- ***Play Reading Series***

In its 4th year, this series presented Saturday afternoons during the summer at [Inside] the Ford is part of the Ford's Community Participation Initiative. For 2006, the series will broaden its focus to feature work of both Latino and Asian-American playwrights.

Note: All proposed events are subject to scheduling and artist availability. In addition to the Partnership Program events proposed above, regular lease events will also be scheduled for the summer subject to availability of the venue.