



For Immediate Release

**TOMORROW TODAY**  
**“BREAKTHROUGH 2007” TO BE PRESENTED AT THE**  
**ZIEGFELD THEATRE, APRIL 24 AT 6:30PM**  
**SHOW CONCLUDES FOUR DAYS OF NON-STOP**  
**ACTIVITY FOR 37 youngARTS WINNERS**  
**youngARTS ALUMS INCLUDE DOUG AITKEN, JOHN CURRIN,**  
**RAÚL ESPARZA, ALLEGRA GOODMAN, JOSH GROBAN,**  
**DESMOND RICHARDSON AND VANESSA WILLIAMS**

New York, NY – While no one, not even “American Idol” audiences, can claim clairvoyance when it comes to forecasting future stars, youngARTS has over its 26-year history proven itself a pretty good contender. Consider its alums: Doug Aitken, John Currin, Raúl Esparza, Allegra Goodman, Josh Groban, Desmond Richardson and Vanessa Williams. This year’s crop of the nation’s most riveting 17- and 18-year-old performing arts talent selected by youngARTS takes the stage in a show entitled “Breakthrough 2007” at the Ziegfeld Theatre on April 24 at 6:30pm.

Part variety show, part Broadway musical, part dramatic theater, the one-night only music, theater and dance extravaganza integrates original films, choreography and a play all created by youngARTS Winners. There will also be performances of ballet, jazz and tap dance, classic and contemporary theater, pop songs, classical music and voice, and musical theater. The show is directed by Neil Goldberg.

At the awards presentation that follows the 50-minute show, 37 youngARTS participants will be presented with cash awards including Gold (\$10,000) and Silver (\$5,000) Awards by Mikhail Baryshnikov (dance); Michael Tilson Thomas (classical music); Julian Schnabel, Frank Gehry and Yaacov Agam (visual arts); and Edward Albee (writing), among others.

Since its founding in 1981 by Carnival Cruise Lines founder the late Ted

**MORE**

**BREAKTHROUGH 2007****ADD ONE**

Arison and his wife Lin Arison, youngARTS, a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) has given over \$84 million to up-and-coming teen talent.

“Breakthrough 2007” performers, writers and artists were selected from this year’s 141 youngARTS Week participants, who spent six whirlwind days and sleepless nights in Miami taking master classes, participating in showcases and exhibitions, and collaborating with each other in January. In between, these highly gifted young people (selected from more than 7,300 applications nationwide) were also mentored by some of the nation’s greatest artists. (youngARTS Week was the subject of the 2007 Oscar-nominated documentary “Rehearsing a Dream.”)

In New York City, as in Miami, sleep will be a limited option for the “Breakthrough 2007” teens. In addition to a heady rehearsal schedule, the young artists, who were judged among the best of the youngARTS Week participants, will fit in master classes at the Baryshnikov Arts Center and MoMA’s Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Education and Research Building, where they will be mentored and have their work critiqued by playwright Edward Albee, dancer/choreographer Desmond Richardson and visual artists Julian Schnabel and Yaacov Agam, among others.

The roster of 37 New York-bound talent chosen to take over the stage at the Ziegfeld as performers and awardees includes: **CINEMATIC ARTS** – Montana Casey (St. Louis Park, MN), Colin Levy (Lutherville, MD), Hodges Usry (Augusta, GA); **DANCE** – Brittanie Brown (Oak Cliff, TX), Thomas Ford (Montgomery Village, MD), Jay Jackson (Carrollton, TX), Jim Nowakowski (Webster, NY), Garrett Smith (Riverton, UT), Killian Stephens (San Rafael, CA); **JAZZ** – Jeff Picker (Beaverton, OR), David Rosenthal (Longmeadow, MA); **MUSIC** – Jessica Anastasio (San Antonio, TX), Benjamin Beilman (Ann Arbor, MI), Hannah Sun (Flushing, NY); **PHOTOGRAPHY** – Christopher Bowman (Ellicott City, MD), Jason Lee (Chicago, IL), Paige Mazurek (Reisterstown, MD); **THEATER** – Joaquina Kalukango (East Point, GA), Sara King (New Albany, IN), Sarah Mixon (Pensacola, FL), Milton Perez (Miami, FL), Matthew Richards (Rosedale, NY); **VOICE** – John Brancy (Mullica Hill, NJ), Gabriel Edmondson (Grove, OK), Sheyna Gee (Alta Loma, CA), Margaret Glaspy

**MORE**

**BREAKTHROUGH 2007**

**ADD TWO**

(Red Bluff, CA), Julia Metzler (Glendale, CA), Lorely Rodriguez (Altadena, CA);

**VISUAL ARTS** – Elizabeth Eicher (Bellaire, TX), Vera Fomenkov (Owings Mills, MD), Scott Giblin (Townson, MD), Cheryl Smith (Sykesville, MD); **WRITING** – Asher Frankfurt (Dallas, TX), Lily Herman (Catonsville, MD), Michael O'Brien (Pittsburgh, PA), Phoebe Rusch (Highland Park, IL), Kristofer Wellman (Livonia, MI).

The up-and-coming stars are part of a growing constellation of youngARTS alumni that include Hernan Bas, Roy Hargrove, Jennifer Koh, Alison Lohman, Rachel Moore, Philip Neal and Eric Owens. In addition there are more than 29 youngARTS alumni currently on Broadway and 57 alums represented in New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Joffrey Ballet and Houston Ballet. The New York Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra have a total of 21 youngARTS alumni musicians. The roster of Grammy and National Book Award winners also include many youngARTS alums.

In addition to distributing a total of \$550,000 in cash awards among this year's youngARTS Week Finalists and Winners, NFAA also serves as an advisor to universities and colleges across America, facilitating the allocation of \$3 million in scholarship money each year.

"Breakthrough 2007" begins at 6:30pm. Tickets are available by calling 212-355-5702 or emailing [ljfishman@aol.com](mailto:ljfishman@aol.com). The Ziegfeld Theatre is located at 141 West 54th Street in New York.

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The NFAA youngARTS program is sponsored, in part, by: Bank of America; Carnival Cruise Lines; The Coca-Cola Company; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust; Gibson Guitar Corporation; Baldwin Piano; Gibson Baldwin Music Education; The Gibson Foundation; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and SunTrust.

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