



For Immediate Release

YOUNG AT ART
141 TEENAGE ARTISTS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN
2007 youngARTS WEEK IN MIAMI, JANUARY 8–14

Museum of Modern Art, New York State Theater, Avery Fisher Hall, the Metropolitan Opera and Broadway houses: Stand warned. A slew of young artists are readying themselves for invasion. And if history proves itself accurate, the 141 teenagers chosen to participate in this year's youngARTS Week promise to keep the arts in America alive with imagination and originality.

This year, application number 825 turned out to be 17-year-old Nicholas Cains from Houston, TX, who if things turn out as they have for “Company” star Raúl Esparza, is en route to Broadway or whatever stage Cains chooses. Like Esparza was in 1988, Cains is one of this year’s crop of exceptionally gifted high school students chosen from 7,300 uniquely talented applicants nationwide to participate in youngARTS Week in Miami, FL, January 8–14. youngARTS is a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA).

This year’s 141 winners, all between the ages of 17 and 18 years old, were blindly selected by panels of professional artists in nine disciplines (dance, film & video, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing). Their initial reward is being flown to Miami, where for a week the young artists create work, participate in readings and showcases, collaborate with each other, take master classes and are mentored by some of the most prominent teachers and artists in the country. Last year’s master artists included Mikhail Baryshnikov, Michael Tilson Thomas and Placido Domingo. This year’s roster is still under wraps.

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The week will culminate on January 13 with “An Affair of the Arts” Performance and Gala at the newly opened Carnival Center for the Performing Arts in Miami. The 2007 gala will also honor Dave Brubeck with the Arison Award for his contributions to jazz education. Allegra Goodman, a 1985 youngARTS Winner in Writing and Presidential Scholar in the Arts, will receive the 2007 youngARTS Alumni Award.

In addition to this life-changing, all-expense paid week, the teenage talents compete for over \$500,000 in prize money, beginning with awards of \$1,000. The Gold Award-winners (\$10,000 apiece) and Silver winners (\$5,000 apiece) are eligible for a chance to perform or have their work exhibited in New York City on April 24. Of these top winners, the dancers, actors and musicians will be seen by an invited audience of 1,200 in a one-time only production, “Breakthrough 2007.” Created and directed by Neil Goldberg to show off the specific gifts of the young artists, the performance takes place at the Ziegfeld Theater on West 53rd Street and is followed by a gala celebration at MOMA.

“The first thing the kids always say about their Miami experience is that it is not the money,” said William H. Banchs, President of NFAA. “It is the fact that they found other young people who understand them, who empathized with them, who made the same sacrifices, the same commitments and have worked just as hard as they had to reach the level of artistry that brought them to Miami.”

In addition to the youngARTS Awards, the 141 recipients become eligible for selection as a United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts. youngARTS is the exclusive partner of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, the U.S. Department of Education and the Presidential Scholars Program.

NFAA and its youngARTS program were established 26 years ago by Carnival Cruise Lines creator Ted Arison and his wife Lin Arison to ensure the future of American art by identifying uniquely gifted young artists and assisting them both financially and educationally. Its roster of alumni reads like a Who’s Who in the Arts. Previous winners include such luminaries as actress and recording artist Vanessa Williams, dancer/choreographer Desmond Richardson,

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater principals Matthew Rushing and Linda Celeste Sims, New York City Ballet principal Philip Neal, former American Ballet Theatre dancer and current ABT Executive Director Rachel Moore, Warner Brothers recording artist Josh Groban, Philadelphia Orchestra principal clarinetist Ricardo Morales and New York Philharmonic guest solo violinist Jennifer Koh, Verve Record jazz trumpet player Roy Hargrove, Broadway actors Ron Eldard and Donna Lynne Champlin, as well as visual artists John Currin, Doug Aitkin and Hernan Bas.

For a complete list of youngARTS finalists and more details about the program, please visit www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org.

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

youngARTS Week 2007 is being sponsored, in part, by: American Airlines; The National Endowment for the Arts; the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council; and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs; the Cultural Affairs Council; the Tourist Development Council; and the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners.

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