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MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT

THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS YOUNGARTS@KENNEDY CENTER

FREE SEVEN NIGHT PERFORMANCE SERIES ON MILLENNIUM STAGE AT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

MONDAY, JUNE 15 – FRIDAY, JUNE 19 and SUNDAY, JUNE 21 – MONDAY, JUNE 22

WHAT The National YoungArts Foundation, a non-profit organization that identifies and supports the next generation of artists and is the nominating agency for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, will present YoungArts@KennedyCenter, a free-seven night performance series on the Millennium Stage. Taking place Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19 and on Sunday and Monday, June 21 and 22, the performances will feature YoungArts alumni, some of whom are also former U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

Highlights will include *Home, Again*, a play written by **Danny Rothschild**; classical Indian dance performance *Nritya Dhara: Flor of Divinity through Bharatha Natyam and Kuckipudi Classical Dances* by **Ranjani Murthy**; *From China – With Love* a classical piano performance by **Joel Fan**; *A Jazz Sound*, a jazz quartet led by **Teo Avery**; *Shape Dance* by contemporary dance artist **Brittany Bailey**; the **Chicago Harp Quartet** led by **Marguerite Williams**; and *Lost & Found*, a singer/songwriter showcase featuring **Tyné Freeman**, **Miranda Scott**, **Kelley Kessell**, **Melissa Goldstein** and **Jack Schunk**. These free performances begin at 6pm, and no RSVP or tickets are required.

For interview opportunities with performers, mentors and YoungArts leadership, contact Julia An at julia.an@finnpartners.com / 212-583-2743.

WHERE The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage 2700 F Street NW

Washington, DC 20566 Directions and parking info, click <u>here</u>.

All performances will be streamed live at <u>www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium</u>.

SCHEDULE Performances:

OF EVENTS These free performances begin at 6pm, and no RSVP or tickets are required.

Monday, June 15 | A Play

Home, Again, a play written by Danny Rothschild (2012 YoungArts Winner in Writing)

Tuesday, June 16 | Indian Dance

Nritya Dhara: Flor of Divinity through Bharatha Natyam and Kuckipudi Classical Dances by Ranjani Murthy (2009 YoungArts Winner in Dance)

Wednesday, June 17 | Classical Piano

From China – With Love will be performed by Joel Fan (1987 YoungArts Winner in Music and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)

Thursday, June 18 | Jazz

A Jazz Sound, a jazz quartet led by Teo Avery (1992 YoungArts Winner in Jazz)

Friday, June 19 | Modern Dance

Shape Dance will be performed by Brittany Bailey (2008 YoungArts Winner in Dance)

Sunday, June 21 | Harp Quartet Chicago Harp Quartet will be led by Marguerite Williams (1997 YoungArts Winner in Music)

Monday, June 22 | Singer/Songwriter Showcase

Lost & Found, a singer/songwriter showcase, will feature Tyné Freeman (2013 YoungArts Winner in Voice), Miranda Scott (2014 YoungArts Winner in Voice), Kelley Kessell (2012 YoungArts Winner in Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Melissa Goldstein (2013 YoungArts Winner in Voice) and Jack Schunk (2013 YoungArts Winner in Jazz)

MORE INFO <u>http://www.youngarts.org/youngarts-kennedy-center</u> For a list of the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts please click <u>here</u>.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raise appreciation for the arts in American society. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 800 winners are selected.

YoungArts provides these emerging artists with life-changing experiences and validation by renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition and other opportunities at critical junctures throughout their careers to help ensure that the nation's most outstanding emerging artists are encouraged to pursue careers in the arts. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 alumni - including Doug Aitken, Josh Groban, Jenji Kohan, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington - with over \$12 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$60 million in college scholarship opportunities in the past two years; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Marina Abramović, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Zaha Hadid, Jeff Koons, Robert Redford and Bruce Weber.

Carnival Foundation is the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor.

For more information, visit <u>youngarts.org</u>, <u>facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation</u> or <u>twitter.com/YoungArts</u>. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, <u>click here</u>.