



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2008

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City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
presents
2008 Watts Towers Day of the Drum and Jazz Festivals
and the
Grand Opening of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center

- **27th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival:**
Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **32nd Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival:**
Sunday, September 28, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Grand Opening of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center:**
Sunday, September 28, 1:30 p.m.

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to present the **27th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and the **32nd Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** at the Watts Towers Arts Center. Festivities will include *A Tribute to Charles Mingus: Past, Present and Future* and several music performances.

Both the Drum Festival, on September 27, and the Jazz Festival, on September 28, bring together talented musicians and music lovers, as well as civic leaders, community service organizations, retail and food vendors, and local artisans. The highlight of this year's festival will be the **Grand Opening of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center**, on September 28.

The new DCA facility in the Watts Community will present a full range of programs to young Watts residents by expanding the diverse array of cultural programs offered through the Department of Cultural Affairs. The center will also provide a safe and creative atmosphere for individual expression under the guidance and direction of professional artists dedicated to continuing the work provided by the Watts Towers Arts Center since 1959.

Visitors from all over Southern California, across the nation, and the world will join residents in South Los Angeles for this multicultural celebration. The Festivals feature both well-known local and internationally recognized Jazz, Gospel, Blues, Latin Jazz, and World musicians. Activities at the Festivals also include family entertainment, a children's area, and the **Universal Drum Circle**. Guided tours of Simon Rodia's Watts Towers will also be available from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Page 2 – Watts Towers Festivals

The Festivals are sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the Friends of the Watts Towers Arts Center. Both Festivals take place at the Watts Towers Arts Center at 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002, and at the adjacent Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center. **Admission is free.**

Event schedules are as follows:

27TH ANNUAL WATTS TOWERS DAY OF THE DRUM FESTIVAL

A Tribute to Charles Mingus: Past, Present and Future

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Artistic Directors: Rosie Lee Hooks and Munyungo D. Jackson

Masters of Ceremonies: Ndugu Chancler and James Janisse

- 11:00 a.m. Cuauhtemoc Mexican Dance
- 2:00 p.m. Korean Classical Music and Dance Company
- 1:00 p.m. Drumline Challenge:
Locke High School and Centennial High School
- 2:00 p.m. Lian Ensemble - Percussion Section
- 3:00 p.m. Taumbu Drum Ensemble
- 4:00 p.m. Drumspirit Chief Matsemala Camara and
The Weusi Nat'l Drummers and Dancers
- 5:00 p.m. Sonship Theus

Events at the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center:

- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration of the Arts
- 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Chalo Eduardo - Interactive Circle Drumming
- 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration of the Arts

32ND ANNUAL SIMON RODIA WATTS TOWERS JAZZ FESTIVAL

A Tribute to Charles Mingus: Past, Present and Future

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Artistic Directors: Rosie Lee Hooks and Patrice Rushen

Master of Ceremonies: James Janisse

- 10:00 a.m. Alaadun
- 11:00 a.m. Soul Seekers
- 12:00 p.m. LA Multi School Alumni Jazz Band
- 1:00 p.m. Presentations:
Poet Laureate Jerry Quickley
Annual Charles Mingus Awards
Watts Towers Community Action Council
- 2:00 p.m. Billy Mitchell

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Page 3- Watts Towers Festivals

- 3:00 p.m. Ray Bailey and Friends, featuring Kevin Brandon
- 4:00 p.m. Nedra Wheeler's Bass Choir arrangements by James Leary
- 5:00 p.m. JMP Orchestra conducted by Patrice Rushen and Buddy Collette

GRAND OPENING OF THE CHARLES MINGUS YOUTH ARTS CENTER

- 1:30 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Sue Mingus and the Mingus Family
Presentations: Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Mayor
Janice Hahn, Councilmember, 15th District
Olga Garay, Executive Director, DCA
Rosie Lee Hooks, Director, WTAC and CMYAC
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration of the Arts
- 1:30 p.m. Piano Student's Recital - Instructor: Brenda McGee
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. String Bass Workshop: Roberto Miranda
- 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration of the Arts

ALL DAY ACTIVITIES

- Guided Tours of the Watts Towers
- Universal Drum Circle led by Matt Gibson
- Prof. Peter Abilogu, Stilt dancer
- The **Noah Purifoy Gallery** will feature *1+1+1 = Carlos Spivey, Kevin Tidmore, and Ramsess.*
- **Mingus Gallery** will feature The Summer Arts Camp Showcase.
- **Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard Gallery**
Permanent Exhibition: International Music Instruments and Film Festival featuring The Watts Towers, The Jazz Mentorship Program, Community Artists, and Previous Festivals
- Supervised Children's Art Activities 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Fabulous Food
- Yoga Classes
- Arts and Crafts

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Page 4- Watts Towers Festivals

The Watts Towers Arts Center and the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center are facilities of the Department of Cultural Affairs and provide quality arts programming to the Watts community. For more information, please call 213.847.4646.

About DCA:

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. The Department provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs for young people. It directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee and Percent for Arts Programs, and the Art Collection and Murals Programs. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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