

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 18, 2008

**ARTS EVOLUTION 2008**

**youngARTS at Baryshnikov Arts Center  
May 9 & 10, 2008**

The “Cream of the Crop” is the only way to describe the 34 young artists from nine arts disciplines (cinematic arts, dance, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual art, voice, writing) converging on New York City in May for a weeklong residency, May 3-11, 2008. Events include performances, art exhibitions and film screenings of their work at the Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) on May 9 and May 10.

These 34 gifted young artists were selected from 8,000 plus applicants from across the country for the 2008 **National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) youngARTS** program. They received the top Gold and Silver prize from NFAA which comes with a cash award - \$10,000 (gold) and \$5,000 (silver), this New York residency, and scholarship opportunities.

While in New York the young artists will participate in an intensive artistic learning experience that focuses on the development and advancement of their talent through exposure to New York artists; the world’s best teachers and coaches; accomplished NFAA alumni; as well as arts events, exhibits, cultural institutions, and performances. This weeklong program concludes with two evenings of events featuring these young artists for an invited audience at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, May 9 and 10.

youngARTS’ 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, 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,

- more -

Philadelphia Orchestra principal clarinetist Ricardo Morales and New York Philharmonic guest solo violinist Jennifer Koh, Verve Record jazz trumpet player Roy Hargrove, Nashville country star Chris Young, Broadway actors Raul Esparza, Ron Eldard and Donna Lynne Champlin, as well as visual artists John Currin, Doug Aitkin and Hernan Bas.

There are more than 29 youngARTS alumni currently on Broadway and 57 alumni 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.

**The ARTS EVOLUTION youngARTS at BAC schedule is as follows:**

**May 9 and 10, 2008**

**Art Exhibit opens at 6pm**

**Live performance begins promptly at 7pm**

**Followed by a reception each evening**

**Baryshnikov Arts Center** is located at 450 West 37<sup>th</sup> Street (Between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues) in New York City.

Press reservations can be made by contacting Janet Stapleton at 212-633-0016. Please note that these events are not open for review.

For a complete list of youngARTS finalists and more details about the program, please visit [www.youngARTS.org](http://www.youngARTS.org).

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The **National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA)** was founded 27 years ago with the belief that the arts sustain their power only if they are continually renewed and refreshed by the

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vigor and perspective of new young artists. NFAA is the only organization that encourages and recognizes artistic excellence in all art forms. For high school seniors and other 17 and 18-year-olds, this is carried out through NFAA's core annual program, **youngARTS™**. The program identifies the nation's most talented high school students in the performing, visual and literary arts, and makes available scholarships and gives cash awards.

**Come See The Future...**

Arts Evolution is produced by sterner projects, inc.

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