



A program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts

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NATION'S FINEST STUDENT ARTISTS AND MASTER ARTISTS SET TO IGNITE MIAMI DURING youngARTS™ WEEK

Public Welcome at Popular Free Performances and Exhibitions

MIAMI, FL (Oct. 21, 2008) – What do actress **Vanessa Williams**, singer **Josh Groban**, *Entourage* star **Adrian Grenier**, Tony Award-nominee **Raúl Esparza**, mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves**, and novelist **Allegra Goodman** have in common? All are alumni of youngARTS™ which identifies the nation's most talented high school seniors in the performing, literary and visual arts.

Selected from thousands of applicants in nine arts disciplines, up to 150 of the "best of the best" travel to Miami each year for **youngARTS Week**, an all-expenses paid gathering that includes master classes, workshops, readings, exhibitions and performances that are open to the public at no charge. This year, the Colony Theatre on Lincoln Road has been added as a performance venue.

"Come see the stars of tomorrow...today," said youngARTS President and CEO Christina DePaul. "Anyone who sees just one performance by any of our students is wowed. The future of arts in America is right here in our own backyard during youngARTS Week, and this year, for the first time, we are thrilled to be able to touch the lives of so many new audiences through our performances at the Colony Theatre."

youngARTS Week 2009 kicks off **Tuesday, January 13, 2009** with performances by youngARTS Finalists in Jazz and Voice, followed by youngARTS Theater Finalists **Wednesday, January 14, 2009**, and youngARTS Dance and Cinematic Arts Finalists on **Thursday, January 15, 2009**. Performances begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Colony Theatre, 1040 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. Also on **Thursday, January 15, 2009** at 9 p.m.,

the youngARTS Jazz Finalists will perform with special guest jazz vocalist Nicole Henry at Upstairs at the Van Dyke, 846 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach.

Visual arts lovers are welcome at no charge at The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse, 591 NW 27th St., Miami, on **Friday, January 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** for an exhibition of eclectic artworks by the youngARTS Finalists in Visual Arts and Photography.

The week concludes on **Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 10 a.m.** with readings by youngARTS Finalists in Writing at the Lowe Art Museum on the University of Miami campus, 1301 Stanford Drive, Coral Gables. A Chamber Music performance by the youngARTS Finalists in Music takes place **Saturday, January 17, 2009** at 1 p.m. at University of Miami's Gusman Hall, 1314 Miller Drive, Coral Gables.

The youngARTS program is open to high school seniors across the country who apply across a range of disciplines in cinematic arts, dance, jazz and classical instrumental music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing. The program annually provides scholarships and cash awards (up to \$10,000) and offers the chance to be nominated as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts to those who demonstrate exceptional talent and accomplishments. youngARTS Finalists are selected in a blind judging process from a pool representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as all U.S. territories.

To learn more about youngARTS Week 2009 and the youngARTS program, please contact (305) 377-1140 or www.youngARTS.org. Performances at The Colony Theatre are free and open to the public. Tickets are limited and can be reserved through The Colony Theatre box office after December 15th. Please contact The Colony Theatre box office at 305-673-1040 for more information.

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About youngARTS™:

youngARTS™ is the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). youngARTS identifies the nation's most talented high school seniors in nine different disciplines in the performing, literary and visual arts. The program offers unique educational opportunities as well as scholarships and awards to artists who demonstrate extraordinary talent. youngARTS is based on the belief that the arts sustain their power only if they are continually renewed and refreshed by the vigor and perspective of young artists. Since 1981 youngARTS has facilitated more than \$80 million in scholarships for higher education institutions throughout the country and has gifted over \$6 million in awards. youngARTS is the exclusive nominating agency to The Commission on Presidential Scholars for the annual selection of the Presidential Scholars in the Arts; the selected few receive their awards at the White House each summer. Alumni include Broadway actors, award-winning playwrights, published authors and numerous esteemed musicians and visual artists. Christina DePaul, an accomplished, award-winning artist and educator, is the new President and CEO of youngARTS. For more information, please visit www.youngARTS.org.