

For Immediate Release

youngARTS HITS THE SILVER SCREEN  
youngARTS WEEK™ DOCUMENTARY NOMINATED  
FOR 2007 ACADEMY AWARD

“Rehearsing a Dream,” which tells the story behind the annual youngARTS Week in Miami, has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Short Subject Documentary, announced the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The film was produced and directed by Karen Goodman and Kirk Simon.

“Rehearsing a Dream” captures the artistic passion, irrepressible curiosity and nervous excitement of America’s next generation of performing, visual and literary artists participating in youngARTS Week, a program run by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA).

In the documentary, the vibrant and extraordinarily talented teens, selected from thousands nationwide to attend youngARTS Week, offer a glimpse of this country’s artistic future. One of the striking themes echoed repeatedly by these 17- and 18-year-olds is that, as artists, many had felt isolated from their communities, high schools and even their families. The film shows the kids’ remarkable transformation during the week, as they work with each other and with major American artists, such as Vanessa Williams, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Michael Tilson Thomas, perform and exhibit their work, compete for awards and begin to feel for the first time that they do have kindred spirits all over the country.

One of four films nominated in the Documentary Short Subject category, “Rehearsing a Dream” was released theatrically in the Los Angeles area in fall

MORE

2006. It was also shown at the Palm Springs Film Festival and the Santa Barbara Film Festival.

NFAA and its youngARTS program were established 26 years ago by Carnival Cruise Lines founder Ted Arison and his wife Lin Arison to ensure the future of American art by assisting young talent in nine disciplines both financially and educationally through the annual youngARTS Week. youngARTS has provided more than \$84 million to more than 10,000 especially gifted teens from throughout the United States.

Documentary filmmakers Karen Goodman and Kirk Simon, artistic members of NFAA's Board of Trustees, established the New York-based Simon & Goodman Picture Company in 1987. The Academy's announcement marks the fourth Oscar nomination for each. The pair has also won three Emmy Awards and the Dupont-Columbia Award for Independent Programming. Their films have been broadcast nationally on HBO and PBS and screened at festivals worldwide.

The 79<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards will be presented on Sunday, February 25 at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center.

###