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**NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE ARTS  
THROWS ITSELF A COMING-OUT PARTY IN NEW YORK  
TO HONOR YOUNG RISING STARS**

**MIAMI, FL (April 26, 2006)** -- A star-studded cast of America's most-recognized artists, including actress **Debra Winger**, actor/playwright **Sam Shepard**, film director **Arthur Penn**, soprano **Deborah Voigt**, playwright **John Guare**, artists **Christo and Jeanne-Claude**, jazz legend **Ramsey Lewis** and conductor **Michael Tilson-Thomas** were on hand for National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts' coming out party April 24<sup>th</sup> at New York's Baryshnikov Arts Center, where they bestowed the highly-coveted Gold and Silver NFAA ARTS Awards to 38 young artists from throughout the U.S., including three from South Florida.

NFAA awarded six \$10,000 Gold Awards and 32 \$5,000 Silver Awards, for a total of \$220,000 in cash prizes.

"It was a spectacular evening, giving us the opportunity to step out on a national stage," said NFAA President **William Banchs**. "Because these young people are so artistically promising, we wanted our guests to see them up close and personal and experience the thrill of watching new artists in the making."

The evening began with an intimate champagne reception for patrons, followed by the awards ceremony and a performance by the NFAA ARTS Award winners. A gala dinner was held in the fourth floor dance studios, which were transformed into a sophisticated, all white party space. The event was co-chaired by **Micky and Madeline Arison, Mrs. Ginny Mancini and Kitty Carlisle Hart**. Miami residents in attendance included **Lin Arison** (NFAA co-founder), **Hazel and Larry Rosen** (NFAA Trustee), **Toni and Carl Randolph** (NFAA Trustee), **Christy** (NFAA Trustee) and **Earl Powell and Linda Cooper**. Other notable guests included board members **Sarah Arison, Charles Bergman, Henry Juskiewicz, Margaret Maruschak, Stephanie Waters, John Henry, Jim Dubin**, outgoing NFAA chairman **Jerry Parks** and incoming NFAA chairman **Paul Zeller**. They were joined by **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, Academy Award-winning actress **Jessica Lange**, and arts patrons **Anne Bass, Joachim Pissarro, Grace and Chris Meigher, Joshua and Jennifer Rubenstein, Jeffrey Kauffman, Rachel Moore, Elly and Leonard Flomenhaft, Howard Ben Trè and Wendy MacGaw**.

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The students are high school seniors who were chosen as NFAA Arts Recognition and Talent Search® (ARTS) Week National finalists from an original pool of more than 6,500 applicants. NFAA ARTS Week, held every January in Miami, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience allowing students to participate in master classes, workshops, readings, exhibits and enrichment activities while also giving them the chance to perform in front of renowned artists and arts educators. Showcasing their talent in one of nine artistic disciplines - dance, film and video, classical, pop and jazz music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing – the 160 finalists were judged against a standard of excellence within their chosen discipline and granted one of six awards: Gold, Silver, Level I, Level II, Level III, and Level IV, with each student receiving a cash award ranging from \$10,000 to \$500.

In addition, through an exclusive partnership with the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, NFAA's winners are the only students who are considered for the honor of being named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. The 2006 Presidential Scholars will be announced on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

To learn more about NFAA and how you can become part of this exciting organization, please call (305) 377-1140 or visit [www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org](http://www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org).

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### **ABOUT NFAA:**

Dedicated to empowering the arts for America's future, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 by businessman and visionary Ted Arison. NFAA's mission is to identify emerging artists and assist them at critical junctures with their educational and professional development; and to raise the appreciation for, and support of, the arts in American society.

Arts Recognition and Talent Search® (ARTS) is a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). The NFAA ARTS program is sponsored, in part, by: Carnival Cruise Lines; The Coca-Cola Company; Gibson Guitar, Baldwin Piano and The Gibson Foundation; International Association for Jazz Education; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust; The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Smithsonian Magazine; and SunTrust. ARTS Week 2006 was made possible, in part, by support from American Airlines; the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Tourist Development Council, and the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners; The State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.