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TALENTED YOUNG ARTISTS URGED TO REGISTER FOR PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL ARTS RECOGNITION PROGRAM WITH INDIVIDUAL CASH AWARDS UP TO \$10,000

Final Deadline October 2, 2006

MIAMI, FL (July 24, 2006) – The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) is accepting 2006-2007 registrations from young artists for its renowned NFAA Arts Recognition and Talent Search® (ARTS) program. NFAA identifies and rewards exceptional students from across the U.S. in nine art disciplines: dance, film and video, classical, pop and jazz music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing. High school seniors are encouraged to apply for an awards package including more than \$500,000 in cash awards and the chance to be named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, earning national recognition and opportunities for additional scholarships.

The NFAA ARTS 2006-2007 registration deadline is **October 2, 2006** and the deadline to submit audition/portfolio materials is **November 1, 2006**. Students can register online at www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org. Eligible artists must be high school seniors during the 2006-2007 school year. Students who will not be attending high school are eligible for NFAA ARTS only if they are 17 or 18 years old on December 1, 2006.

"These students are at the very pinnacle of their young careers and are chosen to participate in NFAA ARTS Week because they are, quite simply, the best," said NFAA president Bill Banchs. "And this is a prime opportunity for students to capture the attention of top schools looking for extraordinary artistic talent."

Each year, NFAA invites up to 135 artists to participate in NFAA ARTS Week, a once-in-a-lifetime experience consisting of performances, master classes, workshops, readings, exhibits and enrichment activities with renowned artists and arts educators. NFAA ARTS Week takes place every January in Miami, Florida. NFAA pays all expenses, including airfare, hotel, meals and ground transportation.

Every student who participates in ARTS Week will receive one of the following awards:

- **\$10,000 ARTS Gold Awards given to up to 9 finalists**
- **\$5,000 ARTS Silver Awards**
- Additional awards ranging from **\$500 to \$3,000**

(more)

At the exclusive request of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, NFAA nominates up to 50 ARTS Week Finalists for the Commission's consideration to be named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. The 20 young artists who are ultimately selected by the Commission join 121 other Presidential Scholars who are recognized for their academic excellence during National Recognition Week each June in Washington, D.C. It is only through NFAA's ARTS program that dynamic young artists are eligible for the Presidential Scholar in the Arts designation.

In addition, select students will be invited to participate in the 2007 Body & Soul performance and awards event, which will be held in late April in New York City. During last year's inaugural event at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, some 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 to bestow the highly-coveted Gold and Silver NFAA ARTS Awards.

NFAA ARTS 2006-2007 offers:

- \$500,000 in cash awards, including individual awards up to \$10,000
- \$3 million in scholarship opportunities
- All-expense paid NFAA ARTS Week national finals in Miami, Florida for up to 135 National Finalists
- Presidential Scholars in the Arts award for 20 NFAA ARTS Week Finalists
- Participation in Body & Soul in New York City
- \$250 Honorable Mention and \$100 Merit Awards for those not named finalists for NFAA ARTS Week, but ranked in the top 5% and 10% respectively of the registrant pool

For more information, call 1-800-970-ARTS (2787) or visit 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 Corporation; Baldwin Piano; Gibson Baldwin Music Education; The Gibson Foundation; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and SunTrust.

ARTS Week 2007 is being sponsored, in part, by: American Airlines, The National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council; and 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.

For more information about NFAA and ARTS, visit the website www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org.