

## **Ken Burns to Appear in Brinker International Forum on March 31, 2009**

**WHAT:** The March 31 Brinker International Forum event, sponsored by John Eagle Dealerships, features **acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns and a special preview of his latest documentary, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea***. Premiering on PBS (locally on KERA 13) in fall 2009, the 12-hour, six-part documentary directed by Mr. Burns is the story of a uniquely American idea: that the most special places in the nation should be preserved, not for royalty or the rich, but for everyone. Filmed over the course of more than six years in some of nature's most spectacular locales — from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon, the Everglades of Florida to the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska — the documentary is a story of people from every conceivable background who were willing to devote themselves to saving some precious portion of the land they loved, and in doing so reminded their fellow citizens of the full meaning of democracy. It is a story of struggle and conflict, high ideals and crass opportunism, stirring adventure and enduring inspiration — set against breathtaking backdrops. *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* follows in the tradition of Mr. Burns' exploration of other American inventions, such as baseball and jazz.

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 8:00 PM**

**WHO:** All are invited to purchase tickets by calling 214-954-9925 or by visiting [www.dallasperformingarts.org](http://www.dallasperformingarts.org) .

**WHERE:** The Meyerson Symphony Center  
2301 Flora Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201

**DETAILS:** The Brinker International Forum goes behind the scenes with people who have changed the world through film, music and scientific exploration. The 2008-2009 Forum will give audiences unique opportunities to hear the inside stories from icons of stage and screen, to get behind the camera with filmmakers who bring powerful stories to life and to gain insights from the brightest minds of our time.

The inaugural season of the Brinker International Forum began in September 2008 in The Meyerson Symphony Center. The 2009-2010 and all succeeding seasons of the Brinker International Forum will take place in the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House.

Season subscriptions to the Brinker International Forum can be purchased by calling 214-954-9925 or by visiting [www.dallasperformingarts.org](http://www.dallasperformingarts.org). **The inaugural season closes on April 28 in an event featuring Diana Ross.** The Forum's title sponsor, Brinker International, is a major corporate supporter of the campaign to build the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts.

Additional support is provided by Briggs Freeman and Rosewood Crescent Hotels. Media sponsors for the 2008-2009 season include The Dallas Morning News, D Magazine, KERA and CBS 11/TXA 21.

### **About the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts:**

The Dallas Center for the Performing Arts, a new multi-venue Center for music, opera, theatre and dance will open in 2009, completing the 25-year dream of the Dallas Arts District. The most significant performing arts complex to be built since Lincoln Center in New York, the Center will provide multi-state-of-the-art facilities woven together by an urban park covering more than ten acres to create a dynamic cultural destination that is unparalleled in the world. The Center will feature the following:

- The Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, designed in a modern horseshoe configuration, will seat 2,300.
- The Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre will serve as a gateway to the Dallas Arts District from the downtown Dallas business center and will seat 600.
- The completely new Annette Strauss Artist Square will be the Center's outdoor entertainment venue.
- The City Performance Hall will provide main stage production space for many of Dallas' smaller performing arts organizations.
- The Elaine D. and Charles A. Sammons Performance Park, one of the region's most dramatic new civic spaces, will unify the venues within a lush urban oasis and will create a dynamic cultural destination in downtown Dallas.
- An underground parking structure will accommodate more than 850 vehicles.

More information about the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts is available at [www.dallasperformingarts.org](http://www.dallasperformingarts.org).

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