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AT&T Performing Arts Center Opens with Star-Studded Performances at Act III

Act III Chair Jeanne Marie Clossey shares details of the once-in-a-lifetime performances

The much-anticipated Grand Opening of the AT&T Performing Arts Center is scheduled for the week of October 12. The most significant new performing arts complex to be built since New York City's Lincoln Center, the \$354-million Center opens with a weeklong celebration from October 12 through 18, 2009 to launch its Inaugural Season.

The AT&T Performing Arts Center will premiere its signature venues with a series of performances during Act III, the fundraising component of the Center's upcoming Grand Opening week. Act III Chair Jeanne Marie Clossey shares details of these once-in-a-lifetime performances.

Question - We have been hearing so much about Act III, please give us some details.

Answer - The campaign to build the AT&T Performing Arts Center began in 2000, so this has really been an event we've all been anticipating for nine years! Act III will be held October 14 through October 17, with three extraordinary performances designed to showcase the artforms that will be presented at the Center—theatre, opera, ballet and Broadway—in unique programs created specifically for the Grand Opening. This once-in-a-lifetime series of performances will not be repeated anywhere else in the world, and will feature star-studded casts. Everything will culminate with a black-tie gala spectacular on October 17.

Question - What special things are planned for Act III and why is it "not to be missed"?

Answer - Each night, or "Scene," of Act III will showcase one or more of the performing arts that will be presented at the AT&T Performing Arts Center. We have an amazing line up of performances for each evening, featuring some of the greatest performing artists working today.

Scene 1 (October 14, reprised October 16 in the **Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre**) will be an intimate staged theatrical experience that celebrates the creative spirits that bring an evening of theatre into being. Directed by Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright/director **James Lapine** (*Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, *The 25th Annual County Spelling Bee*), with multiple Academy Award-winning composer **Alan Menken** (*Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Little Shop of Horrors*) and Tony Award-winning actress **Debra Monk** (*Steel Pier*, *Curtains*). Scene 1 will be produced by **Lou Adler** and **Kevin Duncan**.

Scene 2 (October 15 in the **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House**) will be a showcase of opera and ballet featuring opera legends mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves** and baritone **Thomas Hampson** along with international contemporary ballet choreographer **Christopher Wheeldon** and his company, **Morphoses**, to premiere specially commissioned work all set to music provided by The Dallas Opera orchestra and chorus, under the direction of **Graeme Jenkins**.

Scene 3 (October 17 in the



Photo by Ray Hand

Act III Chair Jeanne Marie Clossey

Winspear Opera House will be a Broadway musical evening featuring multiple Tony Award-winning actors of stage and screen **Patti LuPone** (*Gypsy*, *Evita*, *Sweeney Todd*), **Kristin Chenoweth** (*Wicked*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*), **George Hearn** (*La Cage Aux Folles*, *Sunset Boulevard*) and **Kiril Kulish** (*Billy Elliot*) directed by Tony Award-winning director **John Doyle** (*Sweeney Todd*, *A Catered Affair*, *Company*) and produced by **Kevin Duncan**.

Immediately following Scene 3, under the extraordinary design direction of Neiman Marcus, the nearly 2,200 guests will have a chance to be entertained into the night at a black-tie gala. Patrons will indulge in

a moveable feast of the finest cuisine from The Ritz-Carlton Dallas throughout the Center's venues. Late night entertainment in "Club Alon" in the Wylie Theatre will feature renowned performers **Ellis Hall**, **Eden Espinosa** and **Mindi Abair**.

Question - The proceeds for Act III benefit the Center in what way?

Answer - The funds from Act III will support the many free events during Grand Opening week that the entire community will enjoy, including outdoor performances, concerts, public art installations, architecture forums with Center architects and the Grand Finale day with spotlight performances and public tours.

Question - Who else from the community has been involved in ACT III?

Answer - We have an amazing Advisory Committee made up of women who have supported the Center from the beginning. They include **Charlotte Jones Anderson**, **Lisa Arpey**, **Toni Brinker**, **Gina Ginsburg**, **Nancy Strauss Halbreich**, **Gene Jones**, **Sara T. Martineau**, **Stacey McCord**, **Nancy A. Nasher**, **Sarah F. Perot**, **Jacquelin Sewell**, **Peggy Sewell**, **Shannon B. Skokos**, **Ann Swisher**, **Sarah L. Warnecke** and **Kimberly Schlegel Whitman**. As well, Act III would not be possible without our presenting sponsors, **Lexus** and **Alon USA**, and sponsors **Neiman Marcus**, **The Ritz-Carlton**, **Dallas** and **SHN Presents**.

And, of course, Act III is the culmination of the capital campaign to build the AT&T Performing Arts Center. This campaign has truly been a testament to the generosity of families in our community—we've raised more than 130 gifts of \$1 million and more, an unprecedented number in the history of the U.S. for a campaign like this.

Question - How can we buy three-performance packages or single tickets to attend Act III?

Answer - For anyone interested in attending the event, contact 214.954.9925 ext. 255 or email ActIII@attpac.org.

About the AT&T Performing Arts Center

The AT&T Performing Arts Center, a new multi-venue Center for music,

opera, theatre and dance will open in October 2009, completing the vision of the Dallas Arts District. 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 will be 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 2,200 (with capacity up to 2,300), designed by Foster + Partners.

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, designed by REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus (partner in charge) and Rem Koolhaas.

The completely new Annette Strauss Artist Square will be the Center's outdoor entertainment venue, designed by Foster + Partners.

The City Performance Hall will provide main stage production space for many of Dallas' smaller performing arts organizations, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

The Elaine D. and Charles A. Sammons Park will unify the venues within a lush urban oasis and will create a dynamic cultural destination in downtown Dallas, designed by Michel Desvigne.

Two underground parking structures that will accommodate more than 850 vehicles.

More information on the AT&T Performing Arts Center is available at www.attpac.org.