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**YoungArts ANNOUNCES AON LEGACY MASTER TEACHERS
FOR YoungArts WEEK, JANUARY 11-16**

**PRESTIGIOUS ARTISTS INCLUDE LIV ULLMANN, MICHAEL TILSON
THOMAS AND DESMOND RICHARDSON**

Miami, FL (December 2009) YoungArts, the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts will bring three world-renowned artists to Miami January 11-16, to serve as Master Teachers for YoungArts Week as part of the Aon-sponsored Legacy Master Class Series.

Every year YoungArts selects up to 150 of the nation's most talented 17-18 year old artists to travel to Miami for YoungArts Week, an all-expenses paid, week-long gathering that includes master classes, workshops, readings, and exhibitions and performances that are open to the public. Selected from thousands of applications, these students represent nine different disciplines in the literary, performing and visual arts. This year's class of students will have the exclusive experience of participating in master classes with the likes of Liv Ullmann, Michael Tilson Thomas and Desmond Richardson.

Liv Ullmann, the Academy Award nominated actress and director will be teaching a master class for the YoungArts theater students on **January 15, 1:30-3:30pm at the University of Miami Frost School of Music**. Ullmann has been named the best film actress in the world five times in a row by the National Board of Film Critics and the New York Film Critics Circle, and has been nominated twice for an Academy Award. She is currently directing Cate Blanchett in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Michael Tilson Thomas is the Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony, Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and Founder and Artistic Director of the Miami-based New World Symphony. Tilson Thomas is a celebrated conductor and seven-time Grammy Award winner. He will be teaching a master class for the music students on **January 13, 2-3pm at the New World Symphony Lincoln Theatre**.

Acclaimed dancer and choreographer **Desmond Richardson** is also a 1982 YoungArts alumnus and Presidential Scholar in the Arts. A Tony award nominee, Richardson is a former

principal dancer for Alvin Ailey and American Ballet Theater and has worked on Broadway, television, film and video. Richardson's master class for the dance students will be **January 15, 1:30-3:30pm at Miami City Ballet Studios.**

Participating in a master class with these celebrated artists is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the YoungArts students, and the experience is a large part of what makes YoungArts such a special and unique program. Greg Case, President and Chief Executive Officer of Aon, the leading global provider of risk management services and human capital consulting, said, "We believe that YoungArts' investment in young artists is an investment in the future rich in culture, and that is why we are sponsoring the Aon Legacy Master Teacher Series, to help make this life changing experience possible for the YoungArts students.

The Aon Legacy Master Class Series will continue throughout the year as the YoungArts cycle continues, with master teachers leading classes for YoungArts finalists in New York City for the annual *In The Studio* week, and in Washington D.C. for *National Recognition Week*, where 20 YoungArts finalists are named Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Master teachers for these programs are to be announced. "Being able to provide our students with the opportunity to learn and be inspired by such incredibly accomplished artists is a fantastically rewarding feeling. This is what YoungArts is all about. We are so grateful to Aon for making this experience possible," said Christina DePaul, President & CEO of YoungArts.

Note to media: Master classes for YoungArts Week are closed to the public but will be open to the press. Interviews and photos with master teachers can be facilitated. Contact Nicolle Ugarriza, nugarriza@youngarts.org 305.377.1140 x 1201, or Kate McPherson kmcpherson@youngarts.org 305.377.1140 x 1203.

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About YoungArts:

YoungArts is the signature national organization that recognizes and supports America's most talented 17-18 year olds in the visual, literary and performing arts. YoungArts is the sole nominating agency for Presidential Scholars in the Arts. The foundation provides emerging artists with financial support and life changing experiences with internationally-renowned artists. YoungArts alumni go on to become leading professionals in their fields. Alumni include Emmy nominated actress Vanessa Williams, three-time Tony Award nominee Raúl Esparza, star of HBO's *Entourage* Adrian Grenier, Warner Brothers Recording Artist Josh Groban, Executive Director of the American Ballet Theater Rachel Moore, and internationally-acclaimed multi-media artist Doug Aitken.