



Media Contacts:

youngARTS Communications Department
Judy Block, Vice President, Communications
Kate McPherson, Communications Coordinator
305-377-1140 x 248
kmcpherson@youngarts.org

NATION'S FINEST STUDENT ARTISTS AND MASTER ARTISTS IGNITE MIAMI DURING youngARTS™ WEEK

MIAMI, FL (Jan 18, 2009) Selected from thousands of applicants in nine artistic disciplines, 141 student artists assembled in Miami on January 12, to participate in **youngARTS™ Week**. This annual gathering hosted by youngARTS, is an all expenses paid week in Miami that includes master classes, workshops, readings, exhibitions and performances that are open to the public at no charge. These 141 students represent the top 2% of the most talented high school seniors in the nation, and are considered to be the next generation of emerging young artists.

youngARTS Week 2009 kicked off on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 with performances by youngARTS Finalists in Jazz and Voice, followed by the youngARTS Theater Finalists performance on Wednesday, January 14, and youngARTS Dance and Cinematic Arts Finalists on Thursday, January 15. These performances were held at the Colony Theatre, on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. Also on Thursday, January 15, the youngARTS Jazz Finalists performed live with special guest, jazz vocalist Nicole Henry at Upstairs at the Van Dyke, on Lincoln Road. This performance was also broadcasted live on the Web from the Van Dyke website.

On Friday, January 16, visual arts lovers were welcomed to The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse, for an exhibition of eclectic artworks by the youngARTS Finalists in Visual Arts and Photography. The week concluded on Saturday, January 17, with readings by youngARTS Finalists in Writing at the Lowe Art Museum on the University of Miami campus. A Chamber Music performance by the youngARTS Finalists in Music, at University of Miami's Gusman Hall, marked the end of an incredible line-up of performances. As a treat for Miami locals, all performances and exhibitions were free and open to the public.

youngARTS is the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, a Miami-based foundation with a national scope. The youngARTS program is open to high school seniors across the country who apply across a range of disciplines in cinematic arts, dance, jazz and classical instrumental music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing. The program annually provides scholarships and cash awards (up to \$10,000) and offers the chance to be nominated as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts to those who demonstrate exceptional talent and accomplishments. youngARTS Finalists are selected in a blind judging process from a pool representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as all U.S. territories. To learn more about youngARTS Week 2009 and the youngARTS program, please contact (305) 377-1140 or www.youngARTS.org.

#