



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2010

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The 29th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

and

The 34th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Feature an Impressive Line-Up with Headliner, Jazz Great,
RANDY WESTON

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center are pleased to present the **29th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and the **34th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** at the Watts Towers Campus, under Artistic Directors, **Rosie Lee Hooks, Patrice Rushen, and Munyungo Jackson.**

This year features another impressive line-up with headliner, jazz great, **Randy Weston** celebrating his 85th birthday and the publication of his autobiography. The internationally renowned pianist, composer, and bandleader is only one of several super stars who will perform. Master percussionist, **Babatunde Lea** heads the **Drum and Percussion Summit** celebrating drum traditions from the African Diaspora with **Ndugu Chanler** and **Munyungo Jackson** on Saturday, September 25, and performs with his own dream team **Quintet** with **Gary Brown, Dwight Trible, Patrice Rushen, and Ernie Watts** on Sunday, September 26.

The incomparable, **Big Black** performs **Black on Black Environmental Rhythms** and **Centennial High School** faces **Washington Preparatory High School** during a spirited contest in the annual **Drumline Challenge**. Drums, dances, and songs representing Senegal from **Balle Fette Bu Senegal**, along with the Afro Cuban sounds of **Fausto Cuevas y Sus Compadres**, American Japanese drumming from internationally acclaimed **Taikoproject**, and the ancient Mexican traditions from **Cauhtemoc Mexica Dance** promise that the **29th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** will be another crowd pleasing event!

The **34th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** opens with the Yoruba ground blessing from **Alaadun** before the fabulous **Harold Land Trio** plays a tribute to the great **Nate Morgan**. UC Berkeley's Young Musicians Program's premier jazz quintet, **Indigo**, makes its official debut, and the **Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars** featuring **Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chanler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Bennie Maupin, Jeff Littleton, and Munyungo Jackson** ignite the stage before jazz legend, **Randy Weston** brings it all to a close.



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The Festivals also include a book signing with **Randy Weston** and producer, presenter, journalist, broadcaster, and educator **Willard Jenkins**; special art activities for children; tours of the famous **Watts Towers**; arts and crafts booths; the **Universal Drum Circle** led by **Matt Gibson III**; stilt dancer **Professor Peter Abilogu**; and a tasty array of food that will make this a not-to-be-missed weekend! Admission and parking are free both days. For more information, please call **213.847.4646** or visit myspace.com/drumnjazz.

The Festivals are sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center. Both Festivals take place at the Watts Towers Campus at 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002, and at the adjacent Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center.

Schedules:

29th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival

Saturday, September 25, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Masters of Ceremonies: **Ndugu Chancler** and **James Janisse**

- 11:00 a.m. **Cuauhtemoc Mexica Dance**
- 12:00 p.m. **Drumline Challenge:**
Centennial High School and Washington Preparatory High School
- 1:00 p.m. **Taikoproject**
- 2:00 p.m. **Balle Fette Bu Senegal**
- 3:00 p.m. **Fausto Cuevas y Sus Compadres**
- 4:00 p.m. **Black on Black Environmental Rhythms** featuring ***Big Black***
- 5:00 p.m. **Drum and Percussion Summit**
featuring ***Babatunde Lea***, ***Ndugu Chancler***, and ***Munyungo Jackson***



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34th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival

Sunday, September 26, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Masters of Ceremonies: **James Janisse** and **Nedra Wheeler**

- 11:00 a.m. **Alaadun**
- 12:00 p.m. **Presentations** including Annual Charles Mingus Awards
- 12:30 p.m. **Harold Land Trio** featuring *John B. Williams* and *Land Richards*
in a Tribute to **Nate Morgan**
- 1:30 p.m. **Indigo**
- 2:30 p.m. **Babatunde Lea Quintet** featuring *Gary Brown, Dwight Trible,*
Patrice Rushen, and *Ernie Watts*
- 3:30 p.m. **Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars:** *Patrice Rushen,*
Ndugu Chancler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Bennie Maupin,
Jeff Littleton, and *Munyungo Jackson*
- 4:30 p.m. **Randy Weston**

Additional Activities at the Festivals:

- Book Signing with **Randy Weston** - On Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Guided Tours of the **Watts Towers of Simon Rodia** - Both Days from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Supervised **Children's Activities** - Both Days from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Universal Drum Circle** led by Matt Gibson III - Both Days
- **Stilt Dancer** Professor Peter Abilogu - Both Days

Exhibitions at the Watts Towers Campus:

NOAH PURIFOY GALLERY
Wisdom Knots & Other Symbols by **Varnette P. Honeywood**
Curated by **CCH Pounder**

MINGUS GALLERY
Migrating Towers: The Gigli of Nola & Beyond
Music by **Musicantica**

DR. JOSEPH AND BOOTSIE HOWARD GALLERY
Permanent Exhibition: **International Music Instruments**



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About the Watts Towers Campus

The Watts Towers Arts Center and the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center are facilities of the Department of Cultural Affairs and provide quality arts programming to the Watts community. For more information, please call 213.847.4646.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

The Department of Cultural Affairs generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 25 million annual visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.

DCA's operating budget and managed portfolio totaled \$36.7 million in fiscal year 2009/10. It consisted of: \$9.6 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; \$12.2 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program; \$8.6 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program; \$4.9 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; and \$1.4 million in private and public funds raised during the year. DCA grants approximately \$3 million annually to over 280 artists and nonprofit arts organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division. DCA provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous neighborhood arts and cultural centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs.

The Department also administers the City's Private Arts Development Fee and Public Works Improvements Arts Programs, a portfolio of approximately \$20.8 million in fiscal year 2009/10. In addition, DCA raises outside public and private funds, over \$10.5 million since fiscal year 2007/08, used to re-grant to LA-based arts and cultural organizations for special grant initiatives and to support DCA's special programming and facilities. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website visited by over 2.7 million people annually.

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