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MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION SECOND ANNUAL
YOUNGARTS AWARENESS DAY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**

**#becauseofyoungarts Nationwide Advocacy Campaign to Encourage
Young Artists to Pursue their Passions of Becoming Professional Artists**

**Los Angeles Celebrations Featuring YoungArts Alumni Include
9:00PM Disco/Pop Concert at Madame Siam
Directed by Black Gatsby (D'Angelo Lacy)
Featuring The Voice Season 8 Top 5 Contestant India Carney**

WHAT: The National YoungArts Foundation's (YoungArts) second annual *YoungArts Awareness Day*, a nationwide initiative to encourage emerging artists to pursue their dreams of becoming professional artists, will take place on September 24, 2015. In Los Angeles at 9:00pm, *The Voice* Season 8 Top 5 contestant **India Carney**, singer/songwriter **Fiona Grey**, and choreographers/dancers **Jay Jackson, Michelle May** and **Nicole Ishimaru** will star in a disco/pop concert directed by R&B singer/songwriter **Black Gatsby (D'Angelo Lacy)** at **Madame Siam**. Other *YoungArts Awareness Day* celebrations include contemporaneous events featuring YoungArts alumni in Miami and New York (for more information, please click [here](#).)

YoungArts Awareness Day aims to underscore the opportunities available to emerging artists (between the ages of 15 and 18 or in high school grades 10-12) through the organization that provides them with life-changing experiences to help ensure they are supported in their pursuit of careers in the arts. During the past 34-plus years, YoungArts has supported tens of thousands of artists who have become successful leaders in their fields, including Doug Aitken, Conrad Tao, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington. Applications to become a part of the 35th Anniversary Class of YoungArts Winners are available at

youngarts.org/apply through October 16, 2015.

WHO: **Black Gatsby (D'Angelo Lacy)**, Director, R&B singer/songwriter (2005 YoungArts Winner in Theater)
India Carney, performer, R&B/pop singer/songwriter and Top 5 contestant on *The Voice's* Season 8 (2011 YoungArts Winner in Theater, Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)
Jay Jackson, Performer, choreographer/dancer (2007 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)
Nicole Ishimaru, Performer/dancer (2015 Winner in Dance)
Fiona Grey, Performer, pop singer/songwriter (2013 YoungArts Winner in Voice)
Michelle May, Performer/dancer (2014 Winner in Dance)

For interviews, please contact maura.klosterman@finnpartners.com / 213-215-4574.

WHEN, Doors open at 8:00pm
WHERE & Performance begins at 9:00pm
TICKETS: **YoungArts Disco/Pop Concert**
Madame Siam
1723 N Hudson Avenue, Upstairs
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Free and open to the public with RSVP at yaad@youngarts.org.

For media tickets, please contact maura.klosterman@finnpartners.com / 213-215-4574.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GET INVOLVED: YoungArts encourages the public to share how the arts have impacted their communities with the hashtags **#becauseofyoungarts** and **#KeepArtsAlive**.

As part of *YoungArts Awareness Day*, **Josh Groban** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Theater) will host a live Q&A about arts education and his own Find Your Light Foundation on the [YoungArts Facebook](#) page starting at 12:00pm PDT.

In New York, **Andrew Rannells** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater), **Zuzanna Szadkowski** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), and **Tony Yazbeck** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater) will be at the helm of a dynamic Broadway showcase. A selection of **Daniel Arsham's** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts) work—curated by recently appointed director of Pérez Art Museum Miami **Franklin Sirmans**—will open in Miami, where YoungArts is headquartered. The opening will take place in conjunction with a

YoungArts Salon featuring Arsham and Sirmans in conversation about the exhibition. The first of an exciting season of programming, the YoungArts Salon Series is sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

MORE INFO: www.youngarts.org

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raise appreciation for the arts in American society. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 800 Winners are selected.

YoungArts Winners have the chance to work with renowned mentors, such as **Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Redford, Rebecca Walker and Bruce Weber**; receive cash awards of up to \$10,000; gain access to significant scholarships; be recognized as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts (YoungArts is the nominating agency for this high honor for artistically-talented graduating high school seniors); and perform and exhibit their work at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** (Washington, D.C.), **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** (New York), **The Museum of Modern Art** (New York) and **New World Center** (Miami). YoungArts Winners also become part of the strong YoungArts alumni network of artists, which offers them additional opportunities throughout their careers.

Carnival Foundation is the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).

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