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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

New York City Celebrations Featuring YoungArts Alumni Include 2:30PM YoungArts at The Met Performance by Greg Zelek 9:30PM Cabaret Performance at 54 Below, Broadway's Supper Club, Directed by Zuzanna Szadkowski, Featuring Andrew Rannells, Grace Weber and Tony Yazbeck

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 New York, public events featuring YoungArts alumni will begin at 2:30pm at **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** with a free performance by organist **Greg Zelek** at The André Mertens Galleries for Musical Instruments, North Balcony (Gallery #683). At 9:30pm, Tony-nominated Broadway stars **Andrew Rannells** and **Tony Yazbeck** and singer/songwriter **Grace Weber** will present a cabaret show directed by former *Gossip Girl* and *The Knick* actress **Zuzanna Szadkowski** at **54 Below**.

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.

As part of *YoungArts Awareness Day*, events featuring YoungArts alumni will be held contemporaneously in Miami and Los Angeles.

WHO:

Zuzanna Szadkowski, Director, former *Gossip Girl* and *The Knick* actress (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)
Andrew Rannells, Performer, actor and singer known for his role as Elijah on HBO's *Girls* (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater)
Grace Weber, Performer, singer/songwriter and New Music Seminar's 2015 #1 Unsigned Artist on the Verge (2006 YoungArts Winner in Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)
Tony Yazbeck, Performer, 2015 Tony Award Nominee, Best Leading Actor in a Musical (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater)
Greg Zelek, Performer, organist (2010 YoungArts Winner in Music)

For interviews, please contact julia.an@finnpartners.com / 212-715-1694.

WHEN, WHERE & TICKETS:

YoungArts at The Met
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street
The André Mertens Galleries for Musical Instruments, North Balcony (Gallery #683)
2:30pm
Performance is free with museum admission.

YoungArts Cabaret
54 Below, Broadway's Supper Club, 254 West 54th Street, Cellar
9:30pm
Tickets starting at $25 can purchased online here or via phone at 646-476-3551.

For media tickets, please contact julia.an@finnpartners.com / 212-715-1694.
YoungArts encourages the public to share how the arts have impacted their communities with the hashtags **#becauseofyoungarts** and **#keepartsalive.**

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

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 3:00pm EST.

In Los Angeles, YoungArts will present a disco/pop concert, directed by **Black Gatsby (D'Angelo Lacy)** (2005 YoungArts Winner in Theater) and starring **India**

Carney (2011 YoungArts Winner in Theater, Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), among others. 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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