

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

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH: A YOUNGARTS MASTERCLASS
FREE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION IN NEW YORK CELEBRATES
LATEST EDITION OF THE EMMY®-NOMINATED
HBO FAMILY DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 6:30 P.M.
AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
GRACE RAINEY ROGERS AUDITORIUM

Event Marks Culmination of YoungArts New York
Which Offers the Region's Brightest Young Artists
Life-changing Experiences and Scholarship Opportunities

WHAT

As the culmination of the National YoungArts Foundation's (YoungArts) regional program, YoungArts New York and YoungArts present a New York City screening of the HBO Family documentary special **ANNA DEAVERE SMITH: A YOUNGARTS MASTERCLASS** at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium on Monday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public with RSVP. The newest edition of the two-time Emmy®-nominated special, this episode features acclaimed actress and playwright **Anna Deavere Smith** as she challenges six aspiring young actors, all 2013 YoungArts alumni, to use their life experiences and talents to create an original theater piece entitled *Identity*. The evening will also include a discussion with Smith, YoungArts Alumni and the Filmmakers.

YoungArts New York (March 31 – April 6) is one of the organization's three regional programs that are also hosted in Los Angeles and Miami. These programs are modeled after YoungArts' signature national program, YoungArts Week, which is held annually in Miami where the organization is headquartered. Through these week long intensives, YoungArts engages hundreds of their Merit, Honorable Mention, and Finalist Winners, who were chosen from more than 11,000 applications from across the country. During YoungArts New York, these emerging artists will participate in interdisciplinary workshops and intensive master classes with renowned masters in their field. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their talents with the public through three multidisciplinary performances and a visual arts exhibition.

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH: A YOUNGARTS MASTERCLASS is currently airing on HBO and HBO GO.

WHEN

Public Screening at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, Enter at 1000 5th Avenue and 83rd Street

6:30 PM Screening

Followed by discussion with Anna Deavere Smith, YoungArts alumni and filmmakers

RSVP required rsvp@youngarts.org

Media RSVP to holdenj@finnpartners.com

WHO

Notable Attendees at the April 7 Screening Include:

*Indicates YoungArts Alumni

^Indicates YoungArts Master Teacher

Anna Deavere Smith, acclaimed actress and playwright^

2013 YoungArts Winners in Theater **Julian Aldana-Tejada***, **Analisa Gutierrez***, **Jaz Sinclair***, **Joseph Wood***, **Justice Smith*** and **Melody Dailey***

Sarah Arison, National YoungArts Foundation Board Member

ABOUT YOUNGARTS MASTERCLASS

The Emmy®-nominated HBO *YoungArts MasterClass* chronicles the work of renowned artists sharing their art and life experiences with YoungArts alumni. Anna Deavere Smith is the latest distinguished performer in a robust lineup from this Emmy®-nominated show, which last year featured singer Josh Groban, vocalist Bobby McFerrin, playwright John Guare, actress Patti LuPone, photographer Bruce Weber and actress Kathleen Turner. Previous *MasterClass* specials showcased young talents under the tutelage of architect Frank Gehry, opera singers Placido Domingo and Renée Fleming, dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones, artist/filmmaker Julian Schnabel and others. In conjunction with Columbia University's Teachers College, YoungArts developed a Study Guide based on *YoungArts MasterClass*, which is distributed free to schools nationwide to help increase arts education and awareness. The shows were created by filmmakers Karen Goodman and Kirk Simon and executive producer Lin Arison. For more on the show, visit <http://www.youngarts.org/youngarts-masterclass>.

ABOUT ANNA DEAVERE SMITH: A YOUNGARTS MASTERCLASS

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH: A *YOUNGARTS MASTERCLASS* features acclaimed actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith as she challenges six aspiring young artists, all selected by YoungArts, to grow as actors by breaking down emotional walls and exposing their vulnerabilities. Working to create an original theater piece entitled *Identity*; Smith interviews each of the students individually and then assigns each actor to portray one of their peers. The young artists' desire to grow as actors drives them to embrace the experience and learn to both trust themselves and rely on each other. As the actors work to make the "broad leap" to respectfully inhabit another person's story and persona they learn a about the value of hard work, dedication, and tools they have to help hone their craft. With doubt, anxiety, excitement and nerves, the six young actors accept Smith's challenge and perform their original work in front of an audience after just three days of rehearsals.

ABOUT ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

Anna Deavere Smith is an actor and playwright, and is said to have created a new form of theater. After conducting hundreds of interviews, on a contemporary topic, she creates one-person shows in which she performs a myriad of characters. These shows include *Twilight: Los Angeles*, about the Los Angeles race riots of 1992, and *Let Me Down Easy*, focused on health care. She has created nearly 10 one person shows under the umbrella "On the Road: A Search for American Character." For this body of work President Barack Obama recently presented her with the National Endowment for the Humanities Medal. Other recognition includes The Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, a MacArthur Fellowship, two Tony Nominations, Obie awards, the Dean's Medal from Stanford University School of Medicine, and several honorary degrees. She collaborated with Judith Jamison and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on the Emmy Award Winning televised ballet "Hymn". Some will recognize her as Gloria Akalitus, from Showtime's hit series *Nurse Jackie*, which will return to audiences for its sixth season in April. Other television and movie appearances include those on *The West Wing*, *The American President*, *Rachel Getting Married*, and *Philadelphia*. She serves on the boards of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), The Aspen Institute and the American Museum of Natural History. She is a professor at New York University and founding director of Anna Deavere Smith Works at the Aspen Institute, which convenes artists whose work addresses current social and political issues. Anna is currently at work on a

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (formerly known as the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 17,000 young artists with over \$6 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$150 million in college scholarship opportunities; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Jacques d'Amboise, Plácido Domingo, Bill T. Jones, Quincy Jones, Robert Redford and Martin Scorsese. For more information about YoungArts, visit www.youngarts.org.