



THE CENTER DOCENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 2010

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Orange County Performing Arts Center Offers Weekly Behind-The- Scenes Experiences for the Public

Free Docent-led tours available Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

COSTA MESA, CA – The architectural splendor and technological wonders of the Orange County Performing Arts Center can be experienced firsthand every week during Docent-led tours of the Center's various theaters. These free excursions through the world-renowned halls and backstage areas make guests 'insiders' to the star-studded world of theater, music and dance. Tours of Segerstrom Hall and Founders Hall are offered every Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Tours of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and Samueli Theater are offered on Saturdays, also at 10:30 a.m.

Orange County residents and tourists alike will find tours of either Center building fascinating and enlightening experiences. They're ideal for children or theater arts and music majors. Certain dates may be restricted due to performances or other events at the Center, so a call in advance is suggested to be sure that tours are being given on a specific date. For information, call 714. 556.2122, ext. 4246.

The Center is Orange County's largest non-profit arts organization and its campus located at 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, is in the heart of the theater and arts district. The façade of the 3,000-seat Segerstrom Hall features the Center's hallmark Grand Portal and soaring Fire Bird sculpture. In the hall, which offers impeccable acoustics and ideal sightlines, audiences enjoy performances of the world's most acclaimed ballet and dance companies, Tony® Award-winning Broadway shows and many special events.

Founders Hall is a large rehearsal space that, before Samueli Theater was created, was home to the Center's Jazz, Cabaret, Concert and Family Series. It remains an important rehearsal space for visiting companies and artists as well as a venue for cast parties, meetings and other Center and public functions.

The Center's community plaza is used for large outdoor events that are part of its Free for All Series, including the popular Movie Mondays series that attracts as many as 4,000 film buffs during the summer to watch classic movie musicals. It has also been the site of KCRW-hosted dance parties, Community Day Festivals and innovative performances by the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and Trey McIntyre Project.

 **ORANGE COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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Across the plaza are the Center's Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Samueli Theater and Lawrence and Kristina Dodge Education Center. These are part of an area known as Segerstrom Center for the Arts, which also includes the Center's neighbor, South Coast Repertory.

The concert hall can welcome up to 2,000 music fans to enjoy concerts and recitals performed by Pacific Symphony, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, Pacific Chorale and other music organizations, as well as Center-presented engagements. During a tour, guests will see the massive curved façade – more than an acre of glass – the award-winning silver lobby ceiling design called Constellation, the concert pipe organ and the many acoustical elements that make the concert hall “adjustable” for any given type of music, from a single acoustical guitar to an amplified rock band. The sound is always perfect in this magnificently engineered venue. Inside the concert hall and adjoining Samueli Theater, audiences enjoy renowned Grammy® Award-winning jazz, cabaret, classical and pop music stars, kid-friendly shows to be shared as a family and that inspire the next generation of theatre and music fans.

Samueli Theater is the new home to the Center's Jazz, Cabaret, Concert and Family Series, as well as the newer Indie Band Series and other theatrical and musical performances that are part of the cutting-edge Off Center Series. Samueli has its own private lobby which can be seen from Anton Boulevard near the imposing stainless steel office building, the Plaza Tower. Both Plaza Tower and the Center's concert hall structure were designed by the noted architect Cesar Pelli.

The Docent-led tours add to the theater experience, and the public is encouraged to come, tour and feel at home. A visit to the Orange County Performing Arts Center is meant to welcome everyone to the Center family. For information about tours or if you'd like to become a volunteer Center Docent, call 714.556.2122, ext. 4246.

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