



Dallas Center
for the Performing Arts™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Announces 2009-2010
Brinker International Forum Season**

*Condoleezza Rice, Lisa Ling, Frank Langella and David Frost Among Line-Up for First Season in
Center's Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House*

DALLAS (April 23, 2009) – The Dallas Center for the Performing Arts announced today its 2009-2010 season of the Brinker International Forum. In its second year, the Brinker International Forum explores the impact of arts and culture on contemporary society, with programs featuring **Condoleezza Rice, Hilary Swank, David Frost and Frank Langella**, and a panel discussion on the creative process with **Bob Balaban, Peter Guber and Brett Ratner** moderated by CNN's **Campbell Brown**. Continuing its partnership with *National Geographic Live!*, the Brinker International Forum will also present **Lisa Ling** and nature photographer **Paul Nicklen**.

With the opening of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts in October 2009, the Brinker International Forum moves into its permanent home in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the Center where it will help anchor the inaugural season of the Center's diverse programming from opera, Broadway, theater, concerts, lectures, family programming and more.

“The second season of the Brinker International Forum moves further into examining the role of the arts in our world, and the connection between arts and science,” said Mark Nerenhausen, president/CEO of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. “Many of the programs in this season were created specifically for the Brinker International Forum, and the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts will be the only place in the region for audiences to experience these entertaining and thought-provoking events.”

Season subscriptions will go on sale on April 24 at 10:00 a.m. and are available by calling 214.880.0202 or by visiting www.dallasperformingarts.org.

The Forum's title sponsor, Brinker International, is a longtime supporter of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. Media sponsors for the 2009-2010 season include *The Dallas Morning News*, *D Magazine*, KERA and CBS11/TXA 21. Additional support is provided by Briggs Freeman Real Estate Brokerage and Rosewood Crescent Hotel.

Condoleezza Rice, October 22, 2009

Sponsored by Jones Day

As National Security Advisor and Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice played a crucial role in shaping American foreign policy over the last decade. While most recognized for her role in government, Dr. Rice is also known for her musical talent. A classically-trained pianist from the age of three, she regularly plays with an amateur chamber music ensemble, and has performed for Queen Elizabeth II and accompanied Yo-Yo Ma. The Brinker International Forum will be Dr. Rice's first public speaking engagement in the Metroplex since leaving public office.

Hilary Swank, November 9, 2009

Sponsored by Diane and Hal Brierley

An exceptional young actress, Hilary Swank has never shied away from challenging roles, from Teena Brandon in *Boys Don't Cry* to Maggie Fitzgerald in *Million Dollar Baby*, both of which earned her Academy Awards for Best Actress. In her latest film, the eagerly-anticipated *Amelia*, Ms. Swank takes on the role of Amelia Earhart, the legendary pilot and one of the most daring women in American history.

Paul Nicklen, a *National Geographic Live!* program, December 7, 2009

Sponsored by One Arts Plaza

Growing up in a small Inuit community on Baffin Island in Canada's Arctic, Paul Nicklen spent his early years traveling with the Inuit. His strong field skills and ability to get close to dangerous predators such as polar bears and leopard seals have allowed this gifted photographer to create National Geographic stories that break new ground with startling and stunning depictions of wildlife in Antarctica and the Arctic.

Lisa Ling, a *National Geographic Live!* program, January 6, 2010

Sponsored by The Ted and Shannon Skokos Foundation

Since Lisa Ling began her career as a television reporter more than two decades ago, she has interviewed people ranging from heads of state to Hollywood's A-list. Fearless in the field, she has gone undercover in North Korea, examined China's one-child policy, met families of suicide bombers in Israel and interviewed leaders of Nigeria's biggest rebel movement. Ms. Ling regularly contributes to *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, CNN's *Planet in Peril* series and the National Geographic Channel.

The Creative Process: Bob Balaban, Peter Guber and Brett Ratner, moderated by Campbell Brown, February 26, 2010

Sponsored by John Eagle Dealerships

The collective experience of Bob Balaban, Peter Guber and Brett Ratner represents every aspect in the process of creating a film, from producing to writing to directing and acting. A product of Old Hollywood, Bob Balaban grew up in "the business" and was the first person in his family to venture to the creative side. An actor, writer and director, Mr. Balaban appeared in *Gosford Park*, *A Mighty Wind* and *Capote*, and directed the Off-Broadway hit *The Exonerated*. Peter Guber, founder and chairman of

Manadalay Entertainment, has produced films—including *Rain Man*, *The Color Purple* and *Batman*—that resonate with audiences around the world. Producer and director Brett Ratner began making movies in elementary school and never stopped. His feature films include the *Rush Hour* series, *The Family Man*, and *X-Men: The Last Stand*.

CNN anchor Campbell Brown will moderate this panel discussion, exploring how an initial idea becomes a feature film.

Frank Langella and David Frost: A Conversation, March 16, 2010

Sponsored by Museum Tower

Over the course of four decades, Sir David Frost has interviewed nearly every important player on the world stage, from British Prime Ministers to United States Presidents to the leaders from around the globe. It was in 1977, however, when he sat down with Richard Nixon for an exclusive interview that he changed forever the relationship between politics and journalism. Three-time Tony Award winner Frank Langella is among the American theater world's greatest actors. Mr. Langella portrayed Richard Nixon in the Broadway production of *Frost/Nixon*, capturing the Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in 2007. His on-screen reprisal in the film adaptation received an Academy Award nomination. In this program created for the Brinker International Forum, Sir David Frost will join Frank Langella for a conversation that is certain to be fascinating, informative and full of surprises.

About National Geographic Live!

National Geographic Live! is one of many Mission Programs at National Geographic. Through innovative scientific and educational activities, the Society pursues bold initiatives and groundbreaking research, the results of which are shared with worldwide audiences in National Geographic media. With the help of its philanthropic partners, each year National Geographic sponsors critical expeditions and scientific fieldwork; encourages geography education for students; promotes natural and cultural conservation; and inspires the public through new media, vibrant exhibitions and live events such as this program. To learn more, visit www.nationalgeographic.org/mission or call 800.373.1717.

About Brinker International, Inc.

Brinker International, Inc. is one of the world's leading casual dining restaurant companies, serving more than 1 million guests daily. Founded in 1975 and based in Dallas, Texas, Brinker owns or franchises more than 1,700 restaurants in 26 countries and employs more than 100,000. Brinker restaurant brands include Chili's Grill & Bar, On The Border Mexican Grill & Cantina and Maggiano's Little Italy. For more information visit www.brinker.com.

About the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts:

The Dallas Center for the Performing Arts, a new multi-venue Center for music, opera, theatre and dance will open in October 2009, completing the 25-year vision of the Dallas Arts District. The Center will provide multi-state-of-the-art facilities woven together by an urban park covering more than ten acres to create a dynamic cultural destination that will be unparalleled in the world. The Center will feature the following:

- The Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, designed in a modern horseshoe configuration, will seat 2,200 (with capacity up to 2,300), designed by Foster + Partners.
- The Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre will serve as a gateway to the Dallas Arts District from the downtown Dallas business center and will seat 600, designed by REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus (partner in charge) and Rem Koolhaas.
- The completely new Annette Strauss Artist Square will be the Center's outdoor entertainment venue, which can accommodate audiences of up to 5,000, designed by Foster + Partners.

- The City Performance Hall will provide main stage production space for many of Dallas' smaller performing arts organizations, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.
- The 10-acre Elaine D. and Charles A. Sammons Park will unify the venues and will create a dynamic cultural destination in downtown Dallas.
- Two underground parking areas will accommodate more than 850 vehicles.

The Dallas Fort Worth Lexus Dealer Association is the title sponsor of the Center's Lexus Broadway Series, the official vehicle of the Center and its resident companies, the official valet sponsor and the naming rights holder for the Center's two underground parking areas. More information on the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts is available at www.dallasperformingarts.org.

###

Contact:

Maria May
Dallas Center for the Performing Arts
214.954.9925, ext. 245
maria.may@dallasperformingarts.org