



Young Audiences Western New York

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YOUNG AUDIENCES HOSTS CELEBRATION TO SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION

BUFFALO, NY (9/22/11) – Young Audiences of Western New York, the region’s leading arts education organization, invites the public to join in celebration for their annual fundraising event. *Young Audiences Goes to Town* is a high-energy celebration and concert supporting youth engagement in the arts. The program will be hosted on October 12 at Town Ballroom and boasts a high-end silent auction, appetizers by Torches Restaurant, an awards ceremony, and live musical performances by Nancy Baun, Diaspora Drumming, and headliners N’Dias (The Mix).

The event has been divided in to two “acts” to allow for increased public attendance. “Our new event format is more social, energetic, and fun,” said Young Audiences WNY executive Director Cynn timer Gaasch. “We wanted to give supporters of arts education an opportunity to participate at a variety of levels.”

Act I, hosted from 6-8 p.m., is a VIP reception and awards ceremony, honoring Lorna C. Hill, *Founder and Artistic Director, Ujima Theatre Company* and Helga MacKinnon, *Former Executive Director of Young Audiences WNY* for their outstanding achievements in the fields of art and education. Act I also features raffles and a silent auction that includes vacation getaways, signed Sabres memorabilia, back stage passes for Joan Baez at Kleinhans, and much more.

The Act II afterparty, a concert hosted from 8-10 p.m., features a performance by local favorites N’Dias (The Mix). Led by front man and master percussionist Alassane Sarr, The Mix pairs eclectic world beat performances with high-energy drum and dance. The 12-member group includes numerous percussionists, electric guitars and bass, and dancers who deliver engaging high-energy performances from beginning to end.

ACT I: VIP reception and awards ceremony

When: October 12, 2011

Where: Town Ballroom

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Cost: \$50 general admission / \$125 Patron tickets

ACT II: Afterparty concert

When: October 12, 2011

Where: Town Ballroom

Time: 8-10 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Tickets to the Act I reception are available for \$50 and include appetizers and admission to the Act II afterparty concert. Tickets for the Act II concert are available for a reduced rate of \$15 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. Additional information and tickets are available online at <http://www.yawny.org/town>.

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES: Young Audiences of Western New York is a not-for-profit arts-in-education organization whose mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. This mission is fulfilled every day within the eight counties of Western New York with performances, workshops, and residencies in educational, cultural, and community centers. In operation for 49 years, Young Audiences’ teaching artists support children learning core curriculum subjects through the arts, with over 100,000 artist contacts for children and families each year. Visit www.yawny.org for more information about Young Audiences of Western New York.

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