



# Young Audiences Western New York

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **YOUNG AUDIENCES CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF CULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**BUFFALO, NY (07/02/12)** –Young Audiences of Western New York is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year of providing arts learning opportunities for young people. To commemorate this anniversary, Young Audiences of Western New York is hosting a series of events and performances that recognize its 50 year commitment to inspiring creative learning for the youth of Western New York.

The celebration kicks off on July 6 at Albright-Knox Art Gallery with free family performances and workshops as part of M&T First Friday's at the Gallery. The evening's events will feature activities with the outstanding local artist Gerald Mead, internationally renowned musician Rodney Appleby, and more running 5:00pm-7:30pm. Activities are free and open to the public.

Young Audiences of Western New York is partnering with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library to present creative family programs all year on the second Saturday of the month. On July 14 at the Downtown Central Library, artist Melissa Kate, who will present a hands-on Erie Canal Travelling Museum workshop in the Library's Ring of Knowledge. All **Second Saturdays at Central** activities take place from 1-2 pm and are open to the public.

Young Audiences of Western New York will co-present the M&T Plaza series during Children's Week, July 30 to August 3 every day at noon at One M&T Plaza in downtown Buffalo. The week features Young Audiences performers, starting with Mike Randall and Friends, and continues with "In Jest" by Nels Ross, Glenn Colton, and finishes with PUSH Physical Theater. Events are free and open to all.

Other 50th Anniversary program highlights include fundraisers: Young Audiences Goes To Town Gala and Cocktail Party in October featuring a premiere performance by LehrerDance, and Kathleen Battle performing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in March 2013. Details about these and other 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities can be found on their website at [www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org).

Young Audiences of Western New York's mission is to make the arts a part of young people's lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. Building on their 50 years of accomplishments, an Innovation Fund has been created to invest in promising partnerships with educators, communities and neighborhoods. Young Audiences is encouraging sponsors to help grow the Innovation Fund to reach its goal of \$50,000. The Fund will help expand services to children in the eight counties of Western New York. For more information, contact Melissa Buckley, Director of Development at [Melissa@yawny.org](mailto:Melissa@yawny.org) or 716-881-0917.

**ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES:** Founded in 1962, Young Audiences WNY programming is designed around the fact that an arts-rich education provides a child with the ability to look beyond facts and figures; to creatively meet new challenges as they arise. Plus, the arts make learning fun. Introducing curriculum-supportive, arts-based learning provides a varied and compelling environment-engage even the most reluctant learners and give day-dreamers a classroom as rich as their imagination.

**IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST and at Flickr:**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/42060677@N07/collections/72157630387146410/>

## ARTS FOR LEARNING

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