



A Program of New York State Parks, Queens Theatre in the Park and Queens Council on the Arts

Sponsored by Rockrose Development Corp.

With support from Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, O'Connor Capital Partners, Con Edison

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**Hungry March Band and Bessie-Awarded Choreographers
Headline**

Return of Free Performance Series To LIC Waterfront



Queens, NY – The **Live at the Gantries** summer performance series returns with a celebrated and diverse roster including Bessie-awarded site-specific choreographers Zach Morris and Tom Pearson of Third Rail Projects and legendary street brass marchers, the Hungry March Band.

For the second straight year East River oasis **Gantry Plaza State Park** will host 10 free performances. The series kicks-off Sunday, June 14th with the Hungry March Band then returns on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. from June 23rd through August 26. The rich array of performers ranges from the rhythmic Latin jazz of Afrodita to the eclectic drama of Chinese Theatre Works.

A press conference will be held on **June 4th at 11 a.m. at Gantry Plaza State Park** (49th and 50th Avenues along the East River) to introduce the full line-up and schedule. Hector Morales of Afrodita will perform a solo piece and remarks will be made by the producers: The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Queens Theatre in the Park and Queens Council on the Arts, Live at the Gantries is once again sponsored by Rockrose Development with additional support from State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, O'Connor Capital Partners and Con Edison.

Carol Ash, the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation welcomed the series back to Gantry Plaza State Park, “We are exceedingly proud of our state parks in New York City, offering wonderful open space and recreational opportunities,” Carol Ash said. “Gantry Plaza State Park is truly a gem, with its spectacular views and unique waterfront location. The return of Live at the Gantries is a special and unique way for children and families throughout the city to experience the arts together.”

Jeffrey Rosenstock, the Executive Director of Queens Theatre in the Park, added: "We are elated to co-produce the second annual Live at the Gantries program and to be able to provide free performances by an eclectic and exciting roster of artists."

The first show of Live at the Gantries will also be the final performance of the Queens Art Express festival produced by the Queens Council on the Arts. Hoong Yee Lee Krakauer, executive director of QCA said, "It is great to gather at the gantries for another hot summer of cool performances in Long Island City. Thanks to our sponsors: Rockrose Development Corporation, O'Connor Capital Partners, Con Edison, New York State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, and our partners: Queens Theatre in the Park and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, we are able to bring this unique gathering of artists back to the waterfront for our community to enjoy."

This sentiment was shared by Rockrose Development Corp.'s Vice President Patricia Dunphy. "Rockrose Development Corp is pleased to continue their support of this important public arts project showcasing the local Queens musical community."

State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan offered her support as well. "I am thrilled to be able to help provide funding for the Long Island City Live at the Gantries outdoor performance series. These performances not only highlight the talent of Queens residents, but also give everyone a chance to experience a wide range of music, dance and theatrical performances. I encourage all Queens residents to take advantage of these free and very impressive performances,"

O'Connor Capital Partners, returns as a sponsor for this year's festival. "O'Connor Capital Partners is ecstatic to be a part of "Live at the Gantries" for a second year. This year promises to exceed the success of the 2008 series by presenting a wonderful mix of talent in one of the most unique venues in New York - Long Island City," said Brent Carrier, Vice President.

Festival Highlights:

June 14 - *Hungry March Band*, Street Bass Marching Band
Fresh off a tour of France, NYC's legendary street bass band marches back to Queens in style. Put on your dancing shoes and break out the fancy threads because they've got a party going on - a blazing parade of flesh, blood, steel, brass and wood. They are the music of the people!

August 11 - *Zach Morris and Tom Pearson of Third Rail Projects*, Site-Specific Dance

Woodside-based choreographers Zach Morris and Tom Pearson of Third Rail Projects perform excerpts from their Bessie-awarded *Vanishing Point*. The piece uses aggressive, exhaustive movement, meditative nuance, and live music by the alt-bluegrass ensemble The Dang-it Bobbys, led by composer Kris Bauman. Fully self-aware and handled with equal measures of sincerity and irreverence, the performance unfolds as a fictional funeral. Roslyn Sulcas of the New York Times calls *Vanishing Point* "the dance equivalent of a peaceful, ruminative discussion with a few close friends, drinks in hand"

June 23 – *Chinese Theatre Works*, Chinese Theatre and Dance

Chinese Theatre Works will provide a unique selection of performance genres including Taiwanese hand puppets (“Wu Song Fights the Tiger); Face-changing magic dance from the Sichuan Opera; Classical sheng (mouth organ) music; and the Chinese Opera classic, “Monkey Steals the Heavenly Peaches,” which includes masterful martial arts and acrobatic routines, face painting, singing and dancing.

July 21 – *Afrodita*, Latin Jazz

Afrodita plays heavy earthy grooves from the black Peru style, Rumba, Arabic motives, floaty rock digressions, all sewn together with a free spirit that is committed to coupling meaningful, and poetic lyrics that promote greater social consciousness.

Directions to Gantry Plaza State Park:

Via New York Water Taxi:

Take the New York Water Taxi from either the West 44th Street, Chelsea Piers, Greenwich Village, World Financial Center, Battery Park, South Street Seaport, Fulton Ferry Landing or East 34th Street piers to Hunter’s Point. Exit the Water Taxi Beach parking lot to 2nd Street. Make a left on 2nd Street. Make a left on 50th Avenue towards the city until you reach the river.

By subway, take the No. 7 train to the Vernon Blvd.–Jackson Ave. Station. Walk on 50th Avenue to the East River.

By car from the Queensboro Bridge or Queens Boulevard, turn south on 21st Street. Turn right on Jackson Avenue. Make another right on 48th Avenue.

For more information on the New York State Parks Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation visit www.nysparks.state.ny.us

For more information on Queens Theatre in the Park visit www.queenstheatre.org

For more information on Queens Council on the Arts visit www.queenscouncilarts.org.

For more information on Rockrose Development visit www.rockrosenyc.com

For more information on Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan visit www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=037

For more information on O’Connor Capital Partners visit www.oconnorcp.com

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