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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM THE GULF OIL SPILL TO THE HUDSON RIVER: PARADE TO PROTECT MARINE SPECIES & HABITATS - HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT- SAT MAY 22 ALONG NYC WATERFRONT

EARTH CELEBRATIONS: HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT

ECOLOGICAL ART EVENT FEATURING PARADE OF GIANT PUPPETS & SPECTACULAR COSTUMES & 13 SITE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCES

OYSTER PLANTING, LIVE FISH RELEASE, RIVER CLEANSING & BOAT DANCE

SATURDAY MAY 22 - DOWNTOWN SECTION OF THE HUDSON RIVER PARK- NEW YORK CITY 1-5PM



On **Saturday, May 22, 2010 1-5pm** (raindate: Sunday, May 23), Earth Celebrations launches its' 2nd annual **Earth Celebrations' Hudson River Pageant**. For 2010, since the recent gulf oil spill disaster, the pageant will highlight and address the need to protect marine species and habitats from the gulf to the Hudson River and beyond. The ecological parade and performance art event is directed by theatrical pageant director, **Felicia Young, Founder/Director of Earth Celebrations** a non-profit environmental arts organization and creator of the Procession to Save Our Gardens for 15 years in the East Village.

The Hudson River Pageant features a magnificent parade of giant 15-foot river species puppets, spectacular costumes representing oysters, seahorses, blue crabs, wetlands, and over 70 species of local fish. The river species will dance their way from the **World Financial Center Plaza / North Cove Harbor at 1pm**-(outside the WFC Winter Garden) **along the waterfront to Horatio Street in the Hudson River Park**. Music, dance, performances, songs, and poetry highlighting the river, and its' species, habitats, and issues, include an **Oyster Garden Planting, Live Fish Release, River Cleansing, and Boat Dance**. The performances are presented at the various piers and significant sites along the parade route, in the downtown portion of the Hudson River Park from 1-5pm.

HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT HIGHLIGHTS:

The pageant is a magnificent creation of art, performance and community engagement to honor and restore the Hudson and address climate change. Youth and community people created the magnificent puppets and costumes through many month of workshops with distinguished Artists-in Residence, Michele Brody and Lucrecia Novoa, at The World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery, through the support of Arts World Financial Center.

The Hudson River Pageant features a vibrant parade of elaborate river species costumes and giant puppets led by New York City's popular **Hungry March Band**, and the Afro-Dominican **Kalunga Neg Mawon Band**, and a conch shell chorus. 13 site-specific performances at piers and significant locations along the route in the Hudson River Park include:

1pm: River Spirits Initiation-Parade Start (World Financial Center Plaza- North Cove Harbor)
([PHOTO OPPORTUNITY](#))

2pm: Dance of the River Grass (bet Laight & Vestry St)

2:30pm: Boat House Dance with Paddle Boarders – (South side of Pier 40 –near canal St)

3pm Oyster Planting - (Christopher St. Pier)

3:30 Live Fish Release – 3:30pm (Charles St. Pier)

Children invited to join in costume as mermaids & sea creatures (check-in at 3pm)

4pm: River Cleansing, Boat Dance, & Harmonic Chant Concert ([PHOTO OPPORUNITY](#))

Featured Performers include: Alice Farley Dance Theater-boat dances, David Hykes-concert, Sylvie Jensen-opera, Noyes Dance, Amanda Selwyn Dance, Marta V, Judy Sky, Didge Project, Black Sea Hotel-Balkan choir, Dance Entropy, Paul Pinto-music, among others.

The highlight finale of the pageant is the spectacular **Boat Dance & Harmonic Chant Concert at 4pm** at Horatio Street in the Hudson River Park (bet. the Gansevoort Street Pier and Water Playground at Jane St.) The closing ceremony combines on-the-river boat choreography by the Bessie award-winning choreographer **Alice Farley**, and **David Hykes** and the over-the-river concert of "River to Ocean" by renowned composer-singer with **The Harmonic Choir**. The choreography includes flotilla 30-foot rowboats and kayaks festooned with spectacular marine-life sculptures and costumes, performing a dance movement on the water The choreography includes 30-foot rowboats festooned with spectacular marine-life sculptures and costumed kayaks performing a dance movement on the water. Boat participants include: Downtown Boathouse, The Harbor School, and individual kayakers.

THE PAGEANT IS FREE
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED & FOR MORE INFORMATION (212) 777-7969
You can view our web site: www.earthcelebrations.com

EARTH CELEBRATIONS' HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT

Saturday May 22, 2010 (raindate Sunday May 23)

FULL PAGEANT SCHEDULE

1pm - River Spirits Initiation - Parade Start

World Financial Center Plaza-outside Winter Garden-North Cove Harbor
15-foot giant river species puppets and spectacular costumed gardens spirits kick off parade.

1:20pm – River Aria

Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park City Park at Vesey Street
Abby Fischer- opera singer & Mercy Corps Action Center presentation.

1:30pm - Hudson River Poem & Movement of the Estuary

Rockefeller Park in Battery Park City Park at Murray St.
Poets House-river poem & Noyes Dance performance

2pm - Dance of the River Grass

Grass Mounds-in the Hudson River Park-bet. Laight & Vestry St.
Dance of the River Grass on grass mounds with living grass costumes by Michele Brody

2:15pm - Choir River Song

Pier 32 Pile Field @Watts St -in the Hudson River Park
Performed by Church Street School of Music & Art Choir

2:25pm Sounds of the Earth

Canal St. in the Hudson River Park
With Marta V & Judy Sky

2:35pm-Boat House Dance with paddle boarder & windsurfers

@South Side Pier 40-below Houston St.
Amanda Selwyn – Pier Dance & Alice Farley - Paddle Boarder and Wind Surfer Dance

2:50pm - Hudson-Fulton Theatrical Vignette

@ Queen of Hearts Boat @ Leroy St in the Hudson River Park-just below Christopher St.
Theatrical vignette presented by Drew Vanderburg, staged on the bow of the Queen of Heats River Boat-performance viewed from the promenade.

3pm - Oyster Planting Ceremony

@ Christopher Street Pier in the Hudson River Park.
A performance/ceremony with the River Project planting live oysters into the river featuring Dance Entropy & Black Sea Hotel -Balkan Singers

3:15pm – Taming of the Trash Tricksters & River Cleansing

@ Bow Notch-semi circle bridge-10th St in the Hudson River Park.
Dance Performance choreographed by IngeRay and River Cleansing with Hudson River Park Trust

3:30pm - Live Fish Release!

@ Charles Street Pier in The Hudson River Park
with Hudson River Park Trust & Friends of Hudson River Park
. **Children invited to participate in live fish release** with music Stephan Said, and Paul Pinto with Gelsey Bell-opera. **NOTE: For children to participate please arrive 3:30pm-to check in table. Children can show up in their own costumes as mermaids & sea/river creatures.**

3:45pm - Honoring of the Lenape Indians

@ Pier 49 Semi-Circle Bridge Over Water @Bank St.
Featuring Silver Cloud Singers- Native American performance & Stewards of the River Ceremony

4pm - Water Dance of Boats, River Cleansing, & Harmonic Chant Concert

@ Horatio St. (bet. Water Playground at Jane St. & Gansevoort St. Pier.)
The spectacular closing ceremony combines on-the-river boat choreography by the Bessie award-winning **Alice Farley**, and the over-the-river concert of "River to Ocean" by renowned composer-singer **David Hykes** with **The Harmonic Choir**. The choreography includes 30-foot rowboats festooned with spectacular marine-life sculptures and costumed kayaks performing a dance movement on the water. Boat participants include: Village Community Boathouse, The Harbor School, and individual kayakers.

EARTH CELEBRATIONS

Earth Celebrations was founded in 1991 by theatrical pageant director, Felicia Young, as a not-for-profit 501c3 organization in New York City, dedicated to fostering ecological awareness and reviving the arts at the center of community life. Earth Celebrations innovative environmental and arts programs include: theatrical pageants, exhibitions, performances, art & ecology/puppet & costume workshops, internships, artist residencies, and partnerships with schools, community centers, and gardens. For 15 years Earth Celebrations produced the popular Rites of Spring: Garden Pageant and Winter Pageant on the Lower East Side, which engaged over 5,000 participants annually, and led to the preservation of many of the community gardens on the Lower East Side and throughout New York City. In 2009, Earth Celebrations launched the River Restoration Project to engage youth and community to restore the Hudson River native species and habitats and address climate change.

Felicia Young- Founder/Director, Earth Celebrations

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL: (212) 777-7969

WEB: www.earthcelebrations.com EMAIL: mail@earthcelebrations.com

Earth Celebrations Hudson River Pageant Conceived, Produced and Directed by

Felicia Young: Felicia Young is a community cultural development artist and theatrical pageant director. In addition to Founding and Directing of Earth Celebrations Since 1991, she has produced large-scale environmental and cultural events for the past 20 years for numerous organizations including: The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation(Special Events/Greenthumb), the Alternative Museum, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The Open Center, St. John the Divine, Independent Friends of McCarren Park, New Wilderness Foundation, and Earth Day New York. She is the Founder of the first Ecofest event for the New York City Parks Department in 1989, and the Trash Monster (1990-1995), for Earth Day New York, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The World Trade Center, and Port Authority of New York/NJ. She has a BA in Art History from Skidmore College, and a MA degree in Performance Studies from New York University. <http://www.earthcelebrations.com>.

PARTICIPATING PARTNERS : The Hudson River Park Trust (Sponsor), Brookfield Properties/arts> World Financial Center (Sponsor- which is sponsored by American Express, Battery Park City Authority, Brookfield Properties and Bank of America), Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center, The River Project, Friends of Hudson River Park, Battery Park City Parks Conservancy, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, Village Community Boathouse, Downtown Boathouse, New York Harbor School, New York Kayak Company, Urban Divers, Solar One, Bronx River Art Center, NYC & Company, ACA Galleries, We, theWorld, Henry Street Settlement, Boys and Girls Republic, Poets House, Church Street School for Music & Art, Mercy Corps Action Center, Clean Air NY, Greenpeace, One Brick, BuildOn, NY Cares, CB1, PS89, School at Columbia, Stuyvesant High School, NYU, Riverkeeper, and Clearwater.

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LINKS:

Earth Celebrations web-site: <http://www.earthcelebrations.com>

Video Documentary-Hudson River Pageant: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROJCUVpuk7g>

Slideshow: <http://www.earthcelebrations.com/photos-videos/hudson-river-pageant-slideshow/>

Video Clip of Boat Dance 2009: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jik2Syak3Y0>

Visual Artists Bios: <http://www.earthcelebrations.com/arts-pageants/visual-artists-bios/>

Performance Bios: <http://www.earthcelebrations.com/arts-pageants/hudson-river-pageant-bios/>

DOWNLOAD PRESS PHOTOS: <http://www.earthcelebrations.com/press/press/>

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