



RUTH ECKERD HALL
RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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THE MARCIA P. HOFFMAN PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTE AT RUTH ECKERD HALL ANNOUNCES ITS 2010 SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM

CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 14

**OVER 40 CLASSES OFFERED AND
MORE THAN 600 STUDENTS EXPECTED TO ATTEND SUMMER CLASSES**

ENROLLMENT HAS BEGUN FOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS MARCH 22

March 15, 2010, Clearwater, FL – The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall has announced its 2010 Summer Arts Program. Kicking off June 14, classes at the Hoffman Institute explore talents, help children discover new friends, allow for experiences with professional arts instructors, and offer the opportunity to perform what has been learned on a stage in a professional setting at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Enrollment for members and current students begins today, March 15. Open enrollment begins on Monday, March 22, 2010.

All themed dramatic classes at the Hoffman Institute are literacy based and students enrolled in these classes receive a book related to their class experience. Arts and crafts sessions are taught daily by a visual arts specialist. All multi-week production class students will create a unique, camp tee-shirt. Every student receives a keepsake class photograph on the final day of class and students enrolled in three or more classes receive \$25.00 off fall 2010 enrollment at the Hoffman Institute.

"Summer time at the Hoffman Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall brings a focus to youth and families," said Director of the Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall, Joyce Bonomini. "It is a very exciting time to have 100 plus youth per week having fun exploring the arts, discovering new friends and reconnecting with old friends."

Just a few of the more than 40 classes being offered are:

First Arts, for our Little Artists: For ages 3 to 4. During these one-week, half-day classes for our little artists, students discover theater, music, movement and visual arts activities. This class is designed to develop and expand imagination and creativity as well as enhance essential basic learning and social skills in a warm and nurturing environment.

- **Star-Spangled Tappers:** For ages 4 to 7. Our young hoofers are taught the fundamentals and language of dance in general and tap and jazz in particular in a fun, playful atmosphere of encouragement, discipline and warmth!
- **Singing Stars:** For ages 6 to 9. Students will spend a week singing with friends in wonderful harmony, playing fun games that teach music literacy based on the Kodaly approach.
- **Discover Disney:** For ages 8 to 11. Using well-known Disney favorites, this class introduces students to the art of musical theater performance. Students will have an opportunity to portray the characters they know and love from Disney classics.
- **Hip-Hop Shakespeare:** For ages 13 to 18. Teaching artists from the Eckerd Theater company bring an original work to the Hoffman Institute for development as a possible production. Through the use of hip-hop and spoken word, the wit and street cred of William Shakespeare's timeless work is brought to light.

In addition, these new classes will be offered:

Baseball Week:

Casey At The Bat: For ages 5 to 7. During this week, celebrate America's favorite pastime with our own version of the classic "Mudville" poem. The week includes a visit from Raymond, our favorite team mascot from the Tampa Bay Rays, and tickets to a Rays game.

Great Moments In Baseball History (Not): For ages 8 to 10. From the first pitch to the last out of this camp, we will conjure up the most fantastic, never-before-heard-of (never really happened) historical (and hysterical) events of our favorite sport. Add a visit by our favorite team mascot Raymond, and tickets to a Rays game, and you have the makings of a favorite summer camp experience!

Greater Good Week; Listen To The Wind: For ages 5 to 7. This week, our campers learn about the "greater good" of helping other kids who are less fortunate.

No Bullies Week; Stand Tall: For ages 5 to 7. We all know that it's not nice to make fun of people. We also know that we have to stand tall to show the people around us that we are proud of who we are. This week is about making our new camp friends feel special.

More than 600 students are expected to take arts education classes this summer. Annually, more than 1,200 adults and children take arts education classes at The Hoffman Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall. For more information and pricing please log on to www.hoffmanperformingarts.org. To enroll call Hoffman Institute Registrars at 727.712.2706 or email them at rehedu@rutherfordhall.net.

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall is consistently ranked in the top 5 venues in the world with seats of 2,500 or less by industry trade publications and is known for its 2,180-seat, acoustically perfect auditorium. Artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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