



PRESS RELEASE

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THE MARCIA P. HOFFMAN PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTE AT RUTH ECKERD HALL ANNOUNCES ITS SUMMER ARTS '09 PROGRAM

CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 8th

ENROLLMENT HAS BEGUN FOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS APRIL 1st

March 16 2009, Clearwater, FL – The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall has announced its Summer Arts '09 Program. Kicking off June 8th, 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 began on March 15, 2009. Open enrollment begins on April 1, 2009.

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 '09 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."

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

- **First Arts, Arts Immersion:** For ages 3 to 4. Our youngest 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.
- **Tiny 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 11. Students will spend a week singing with friends in wonderful harmony, playing fun games that teach music literacy based on the Kodaly approach.
- **Circus Theater:** For ages 11 to 14. This class is nothing short of a three-ring circus! Mr. Ian Beck is your child's guide as they journey through the rings of the big top to learn the artistry necessary to build a world-class act.
- **Themed Dramatics for Artists:** Classes are offered in the age categories of 5 to 7, 8 to 10 and 11 to 14. Students will write the script, create the set, practice and present! It's a recipe for fun!

More than 1,200 adults and children take arts education classes annually 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 enters its 26th season as the number six ranked venue in the world, according to the entertainment industry trade publication Billboard Magazine. 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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