

WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
BEVERLY HILLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
SEEKS MEMORIES AND ARTIFACTS THAT DOCUMENT
BEVERLY HILLS POST OFFICE'S ROLE IN DAILY LIFE

BEVERLY HILLS, CA - As the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts approaches its October opening and an exciting new future, the arts venue is launching a campaign to collect the written and remembered history of the complex's centerpiece building, the Beverly Hills Post Office.

The "Post About the Post Office" campaign will showcase the many significant moments that passed through the grand halls of the majestic building and present them in a future display at the hall and on-line.

The Wallis welcomes recollections of life-changing correspondence that arrived by post, memories of shipping or receiving holiday packages, photographs and even celebrity encounters (Fred Astaire was said to have tap-danced down the beautiful stairs). Go to www.facebook.com/thewallisbh to upload images and stories, or email submissions to info@thewallis.org.

"We know that all across the city and beyond, cards, letters and photos from the Beverly Hills Post Office are stashed away in scrapbooks, filing cabinets and desk drawers," said Lou Moore, The Wallis Executive Director. "To commemorate the building's irreplaceable role in Beverly Hills life, we're asking current and former residents to share with us those artifacts and the stories behind them so that we can gather and build upon the history of this important site."

The landmark building's diverse role in civic life has been captured in the millions of letters and packages that flowed through the Italian Renaissance Revival structure from the day it opened on April 28, 1934, to March, 1999, when it officially closed. Known as the Beverly Hills Main Post Office, the lavishly ornamented brick and terracotta building on North Crescent Drive was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Now the building, with its marble walls, vaulted ceilings and elaborate cornices, has been exquisitely refurbished and adapted to house a studio theater, theater school, box office, gift shop and cafe. The familiar entrance will become the Grand Hall, an impressive lobby that will be the starting point for new generations to gather indelible memories inside this distinctive building.

The Inaugural Season opens with performances by the **Martha Graham Dance Company**, which opens the 500-seat Goldsmith Theater on November 8 and 9, followed by the play **Parfumerie** by Miklos Laszlo, from November 26 to December 22. As a special program, an exhibition on perfume entitled **Timeless Scents: 1370-2013**, a history of iconic fragrances through the ages is being created especially for The Wallis by Chandler Burr, former New York Times scent critic.

Other highlights include **St. Lawrence String Quartet**, January 15, 2014; **Noël Coward's Brief Encounter**, February 15 to March 23, 2014; **Baseball Swing with The All-Star Baseball Jazz Band**,

April 4 to 6, 2014; the chamber opera, **A Coffin in Egypt**, April 23 to 27, 2014; **The Trumpet of the Swan**, May 2 to 4 and **Jessica Lang Dance**, May 30 and 31, 2014. Two productions for children, **Jason and the Argonauts**, January 16 through February 2, 2014 and **White**, March 7-23, 2014 will be presented in the Lovelace Studio Theater.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Opening in October, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts will transform a Beverly Hills city block into a vibrant new cultural destination with two distinct, elegant buildings; the historic 1933 Italianate-style Beverly Hills Post Office and the new, 500-seat, state-of-the-art Goldsmith Theater. Together the venues will embrace the city's history and future, creating a new cultural landmark. Within the treasured Post Office, existing spaces will be re-imagined into the flexible 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, a theater school for young people, a café and gift shop. The buildings will be surrounded by lush intimate courtyards, a sunken sculpture garden and a promenade event terrace. Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, the Annenberg will be a home to artists from around the world and audiences of every age.

A subterranean, three-level parking garage operated by the City of Beverly Hills has opened to provide parking for the Annenberg's future patrons and visitors to the city.

For more information about the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, visit www.TheWallis.org.

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