

## The Wallis Announces Full Schedule for

### *WelcomeFest*

A FREE Celebration of the Arts All Weekend Long  
September 10 & 11

**Just Added: Syncopated Ladies, Tutu Sweeney, Poet Jacqueline Suskin, Portrait Artist/Calligrapher Emily J. Snyder, Historic Los Angeles Video Installation by Gina Marie Napolitan, Harold Lloyd Film Screening with Pianist Michael D. Mortilla and an ASL Storytelling Hour**

**Join Previously Announced Artists including Matthew Bourne, Debbie Allen, Michael Arden, Jacob Jonas and KCRW's Aaron Byrd, and more**

(Beverly Hills, CA September 1) Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts announces the **full schedule** and **new artist additions** to the lineup for **WelcomeFest**, a two-day celebration of the performing arts taking place Saturday, September 10 from 2pm – 10pm and Sunday, September 11 from 10am – 2pm. **WelcomeFest** will showcase many of the upcoming 2016/17 season's artists and other Los Angeles-based performers who will bring their work to the Beverly Hills campus. Performances and activities are free to the public. For a complete listing of events and up-to-the-minute information, please visit [TheWallis.org/WelcomeFest](http://TheWallis.org/WelcomeFest) or join the *WelcomeFest* [Facebook](#) event.

Joining the *WelcomeFest* lineup is **Syncopated Ladies**, the female tap dance band who gained international recognition with their viral video featuring a performance to Beyonce's *Formation*; Venice, CA-born musician **Tutu Sweeney**, whose sound fuses soul, funk, disco and rock; a performance poetry project by **Jacqueline Suskin** that consists of composing one-of-a-kind poems on a manual typewriter; portrait and calligraphy sessions with artist **Emily J. Snyder**; an intimate tableaux and video projection installation exploring historic Los Angeles by experiential filmmaker **Gina Marie Napolitan**; a special screening of a Harold Lloyd film (to be announced) accompanied by pianist **Michael D. Mortilla**; and an **ASL Storytelling Hour** in American Sign Language led by Broadway's Sandra Mae Frank and Amelia Hensley (*Spring Awakening*) and actress Ipek Mehlum.

Already announced highlights include a Saturday Night KCRW Outdoor Dance Party featuring DJ Aaron Byrd, the return of Debbie Allen's *Dance Sundays*, a conversation with Matthew Bourne, Michael Arden's *Pop-Up Sondheim*, Deaf West Theatre, the Beverly Hills Marching Band, Silkscreening with Self Help Graphics & Art, performances by cast members of *For The Record: Scorsese*, Impro Theatre's *Twilight Zone Unscripted: Abridged* and more.

The Wallis campus will feature a selection of food trucks located on the Eva and Marc Stern Arrival Court and cash bars located on the Promenade Terrace. The newly opened The Bar @ The Wallis, located in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Grand Hall, will feature specialty cocktails and a full bar. *WelcomeFest* sponsors include Town and Country and Peroni, the official beer of The Wallis.

### **SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:**

*\*\*Please note, times and locations are subject to shift/change.*

**2:00pm**

**Season Opening Kickoff** with The Wallis' Artistic Director **Paul Crewes** and the **Beverly Hills High School Marching Band** on the Eva and Marc Stern Arrival Court.

**Self Help Graphics & Art's Barrio Mobile Art Studio** interactive t-shirt silkscreening workshop happening throughout the day on the Eva and Marc Stern Arrival Court (until 7pm). *Please note there is a small cost associated with session.*

**Beverly Hills Fire Department** meet and greet with cadets and **Fire Truck** on view on the Eva and Marc Stern Arrival Court (until 6pm).

Community mural painting led by artist **Wayne Perry** of **Self Help Graphics & Art** happening throughout the day in The Betty and Fred Hayman Walkway (until 7pm).

**Poem Store** featuring **Jacqueline Suskin**, who creates one-of-a-kind poems on a manual typewriter, in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Grand Hall (until 7pm). *Please note there is a small cost associated with session.*

Special calligraphy sessions by artist **Emily J. Snyder**, who uses her signature calligraphic line to create illustrative portraits, in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Grand Hall (until 7pm). *Please note there is a small cost associated with session.*

Intimate tableaux and video projection installation exploring historic Los Angeles by experiential filmmaker **Gina Marie Napolitan** in the Post Masters Office (until close).

Storybook corner, presented by the **Beverly Hills Public Library**, offering a quiet space to read throughout the day at GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (until close).

Interactive **scavenger hunt** leading participants throughout the campus and through the history of The Wallis, dating back to 1934 when it first served as the Beverly Hills Post Office (until close). *Completed entries are entered to win a pair of tickets to a 2016/17 show of the winner's choice.*

**2:15pm**

Gospel concert featuring Lorenzo Johnson and the **Praizum Gospel Choir** in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.

**2:30pm**

Jazz concert by **The Foshay Jazz Band**, featuring students from the James A. Foshay School, on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage.

- 2:30pm (cont.)** **Andrew Grueschow** leads an interactive **Drum Circle** (drums provided) at GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education.
- Movement theater and dance performance inspired by the textures and lights of the building, choreographed by **Madeleine Dahm** and featuring students from GRoW @ The Wallis' *The Art of Choreography* class, happening throughout the campus.
- 3:30pm** Dance performance by "**The Sole Sisters**" featuring tap phenoms **Melinda Sullivan** and **Sarah Reich** on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage.
- Debbie Allen Dance Academy's Ensemble** perform an excerpt from *Chicago* choreographed by Jazz Master Kim Hale on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage.
- Chamber music concert featuring students from the acclaimed **Colburn School** perform in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.
- 4:00pm** Hip-hop master **Chantel Heath** leads **Debbie Allen Dance Academy's 'Break the Floor' Hip-Hop** outdoor dance class at the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage and Dance Floor.
- 4:30pm** Broadway's Sandra Mae Frank and Amelia Hensley (*Spring Awakening*) and international actress Ipek Mehlum (Norway's Teater Manu) lead a family-friendly **ASL Storytelling Hour** in American Sign Language with English translation, presented by ASL Cabaret, for both hearing and deaf audiences.
- 5:00pm – 8:00pm** Musicians, singers, actors and dancers perform songs of the legendary composer Stephen Sondheim in director **Michael Arden's *Pop-Up Sondheim***, an immersive experience that leads audiences in an exploration of the grounds and hidden corners of The Wallis.
- 5:00pm** Vocal concert featuring the extraordinary individuals comprising **The Miracle Project LIVE!**, a performance troupe of self-advocates of all abilities (verbal and non-verbal) in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.
- 5:30pm** An original dance work designed specifically for The Wallis' outdoor space featuring two dancers from **Jacob Jonas The Company** on the Promenade Terrace.
- 5:45pm** **Deaf West Theatre**, the company behind the Tony Award-nominated musical revival *Spring Awakening*, present a special cabaret performance in American Sign Language/English on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage.
- 6:00pm** Musician **Jamey Tate** leads attendees in an interactive **Jazz Jam Session** at GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education. *Attendees are invited to bring their own instruments.*
- 6:15pm** Concert featuring cast members from **For The Record: Scorsese** performing various songs from Broadway hits to pop music on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage.

- 7:15pm** **Tutu Sweeney** fuses soul, funk, disco and rock in a special live musical performance on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage.
- 8:00pm – 10:00pm** **KCRW Dance Party** featuring an eclectic mix of music curated by **DJ Aaron Byrd** on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage and Dance Floor.
- 8:30pm** Enter a dimension of imagination and comedy with **Impro Theatre's *Twilight Zone UnScripted: Abridged***, a completely improvised play in the style of Rod Serling's classic, in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.

### **SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:**

*\*\*Please note, times and locations are subject to shift/change.*

- 10:00am** **Free Donuts**, generously donated by Gelson's, provided to the first 100 attendees. *Supplies limited. One donut per person.*

**Deaf West Theatre** guides audiences through a special ***Sign/Sing Along***, along with select members of the **Street Symphony Chamber Choir** in the Bram Goldsmith Theater. *Audience members will have the opportunity to learn a number of signs in a musical context, and sing and sign together, for both hearing and deaf audiences.*

Wake up and dance with the 10-piece band **Phat Cat Swinger** bring style, class, charisma and an explosive energy (dancing encouraged!) to the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage and Dance Floor.

**Self Help Graphics & Art's Barrio Mobile Art Studio** interactive t-shirt silkscreening workshop happening throughout the day on the Eva and Marc Stern Arrival Court (until 2pm). *Please note there is a small cost associated with session.*

**Beverly Hills Fire Department** meet and greet with cadets and **Fire Truck** on view on the Eva and Marc Stern Arrival Court (until 2pm).

Community mural painting led by artist **Wayne Perry** of **Self Help Graphics & Art** happening throughout the day in The Betty and Fred Hayman Walkway (until 2pm).

**Poem Store** featuring **Jacqueline Suskin**, who creates one-of-a-kind poems on a manual typewriter, in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Grand Hall (until 2pm). *Please note there is a small cost associated with session.*

Special calligraphy sessions by artist **Emily J. Snyder**, who uses her signature calligraphic line to create illustrative portraits, in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Grand Hall (until 2pm). *Please note there is a small cost associated with session.*

Intimate tableaux and video projection installation exploring historic Los Angeles by experiential filmmaker **Gina Marie Napolitan** in the Post Masters Office (until close).

- 10:00am (cont.)** Storytelling, puppet show and sing-along with the **Beverly Hills Public Library**, happening throughout the day at GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (until 2pm).
- Interactive workshop with **puppeteer Beth Peterson**, happening throughout the day at GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (until 2pm).
- Dance workshops for the whole family with **Invertigo Dance Theatre**, happening throughout the day at GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (until 2pm).
- Interactive social media installation with the **Young Storytellers**, happening throughout the day at GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (until 2pm).
- Interactive **scavenger hunt** leading participants throughout the campus and through the history of The Wallis, dating back to 1934 when it first served as the Beverly Hills Post Office (until close). *Completed entries are entered to win a pair of tickets to a 2016/17 show of the winner's choice.*
- 10:30am** Comprised of musicians from the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the **Street Symphony Chamber Choir** perform a family-friendly music concert in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.
- 11:00am** Choreographer and director Sir **Matthew Bourne** sits down for a special conversation with The Wallis Artistic Director Paul Crewes in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.
- 11:15am** The fiercely talented tap dance band **Syncopated Ladies** deliver their cutting-edge sound and look in a special performance at the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage and Dance Floor.
- 12:00pm** **Debbie Allen** returns with her popular **Dance Sundays** leading a public outdoor Salsa class with Debbie Allen Dance Academy's Latin Fusion Master Lyrik Cruz and a live band on the Promenade Terrace's Outdoor Stage and Dance Floor.
- 12:20pm** Special **Harold Lloyd** Film Screening with live piano accompanist **Michael D. Mortilla** in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING INFORMATION**

**Parking Information:** A special discounted rate of \$6 for both Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11 will be offered at the 450 N. Crescent Drive Parking Structure. Additional parking information can be found at: [TheWallis.org/directionsandparking](http://TheWallis.org/directionsandparking). No valet parking will be provided during *WelcomeFest*.

**Bus Route Information:** Getting to the Wallis by bus is easy! We're located near stops on Metro buses 4, 704, 14, 16 and 316.

For more information about **The Wallis' 2016/17 season**, please visit <http://bit.ly/2aEsZ6l>.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

For downloadable photos, please visit [TheWallis.org/Press](http://TheWallis.org/Press)

Like The Wallis on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

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