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The Indianapolis Museum of Art to open The Toby on November 21, 2008

Inaugural season of programming to include Tan Dun's Ghost Opera; lecture by Slow Food pioneer Alice Waters and the debut of two film series

Indianapolis – (June 23, 2008) The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced today the schedule for the inaugural season of programming in Tobias Theater, nicknamed "The Toby," which will reopen after extensive renovations on November 21, 2008. In The Toby, visitors will encounter dynamic, culturally adventurous programs including multimedia performances, cinema, and talks by internationally significant speakers.

"Indianapolis has a new 'living room'—a place for cultural programs and dialogue. The first season of programs in The Toby is intended to treat visitors to out-of-the-box performers, thinkers, and films with added value. We're delighted with the expanded possibilities that this new space affords," said Anne Laker, assistant director of education for public programs at the IMA.

The season opens with "Virtuosos and Visions", featuring internationally renowned violinist Cho-Liang Lin and pipa artist Min Xiao-Fen, Friday, November 21, 2008 at 8 p.m. The artists will perform music from both Western and Chinese classical traditions, followed by "Ghost Opera", a five-movement work for string quartet and pipa with special sound effects made by water, metal, stones and paper. "Ghost Opera", composed by the boundary-breaking composer Tan Dun, combines European traditions with those of Chinese shadow puppet theater, visual art, folk music, and East Asian shamanic ritual. This event is presented by the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Tickets are \$17 for IMA members and \$25 for the public and may be purchased online at www.violin.org or by calling 317-637-4574.

Slow Food pioneer, master chef and food educator Alice Waters will speak about the art of food and the revolutionary, sustaining power of gardens as teaching tools on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. As the founder of the Edible Schoolyard project, Waters initiated kitchen-classrooms in a California public school where students prepare, serve, and eat food, some of which they have grown themselves. Waters has received numerous awards, including the *Bon Appetit* magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000 and the James Beard Humanitarian Award in 1997. Tickets are \$10 for IMA members, \$15 for the public, and \$3 for educators and students. Educational groups are free with advance reservation. Tickets go on sale October 20 at www.imamuseum.org.

In addition to musical performances and talks, The Toby will be a venue for two new film series: Winter Nights and One-Two Punch. Winter Nights is similar to the IMA's popular Summer Nights series. Like Summer Nights, Winter Nights will feature classic films with recognizable names, and the public will be invited to vote for films at www.imamuseum.org. The Winter Nights series will begin Friday, January 2, 2009 and will continue each Friday through February 27, 2009. The One-Two Punch series features two films with an interesting relationship to each other, such as films that have

influenced each other or two dissimilar films by the same director. The One-Two Punch series will run the last Saturday of the month starting November 2008. All films in the Toby are \$8 for the public; \$4 for IMA members. For the One-Two Punch series, the public can see both films for \$10; IMA members can see both films for \$5. Tickets may be purchased in advance or the day of the film. Schedules for these film series will be released in early fall.

The renovation of Tobias Theater has been made possible by a generous gift from Randall and Marianne Tobias. The gift has allowed the IMA to focus on improvement of the theater's technology, handicapped accessibility, seating, and other features. The Tobias gift adds to the couple's original commitment, made in 2003 as part of the capital campaign for the new IMA. Other significant donors to The Toby renovation include Randy Deer, Michelle Griffith, Ann Stack, and Charlie Sutphin.

IMA Information

Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the IMA connects visitors to its unique and expansive view of art with its Indianapolis Museum of Art, the future Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park and Oldfields—Lilly House & Gardens. The Indianapolis Museum of Art is the fifth largest encyclopedic art museum in the United States and features significant collections of African, American, Asian, European, contemporary, and decorative art, including paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, and photographs, textiles and costumes.

The IMA completed a \$74 million expansion project in May 2005 that featured three new wings, 50 percent more gallery space, expanded educational spaces, two new restaurants by Wolfgang Puck Catering and an enhanced museum store. The construction added 164,000 square feet to the Museum and includes renovation of 90,000 square feet of existing space. In order to present major exhibitions of its own and to accommodate major traveling exhibitions, the expanded Museum was outfitted with new 10,000-plus square foot Clowes Special Exhibition Gallery on the Museum's first level.

Located at 4000 Michigan Road, the IMA and Lilly House are open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The IMA is closed Mondays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days. For more information, call 317-923-1331 or visit www.imamuseum.org.

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