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AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR WITH WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT FROM BROADWAY TO COMEDY

AVENTURA, Fla. – The New Year at Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is filled with world-class entertainment this January, including Broadway parody; side-splitting comedy; dramatic foreign film; children’s theater; and a musical array including the Aventura Broadway Concert Series, classical piano, rock and roll and tributes to some of the greatest singers of our time.

Mia Madre, the fourth film in the Aventura Foreign Film Series, will be screened on **Tuesday, January 3 at 7 p.m.** Winner of the 2015 Ecumenical Jury Prize at Cannes, the story centers on Margherita, a woman in crisis both personally and professionally. On the professional side, her work as a director on a film about a factory strike is fraught with unprepared actors and unhelpful advice. Personally, her romantic entanglement, strained relationship with her daughter and her mother’s illness all converge as she struggles to come to terms with herself and her life. Hosted by Shelly Isaacs, the film is presented in French and Italian with English subtitles. Tickets are \$11.

Next up is **Forbidden Broadway: 35th Anniversary Tour**, for two shows on **Thursday, January 5 and Friday, January 6 and at 8 p.m.** This fall-down funny musical roast of Broadway features outrageous costumes, hilarious rewrites of the most popular songs from the Great White Way and dead-on impressions by a stellar cast. Tickets are \$40.

Tony nominated star of *Mamma Mia!* Louise Pitre pays homage to one of the greatest entertainers during ***Chasing Rainbows: A Tribute to Judy Garland***, on **Saturday, January 7 at 8 p.m.** with stories and songs, including "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," "Get Happy" and "That's Entertainment." From the *Chicago Tribune*, "Pitre's performance is fueled by a formidable force of will and phenomenal technique." Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

Too Marvelous for Words on **Sunday, January 8 at 2 p.m.** pays tribute to the great Nat King Cole. Actor/singer Peter Smith will take the audience on a journey into Cole’s early days, before “The Christmas Song” and “Mona Lisa,” when he was recording from

the piano bench to create some of the most influential music of the day, which left an impact on an array of singers and pianists including Oscar Peterson and Ahmad Jamal. Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

On Friday, January 13 at 8 p.m. Jazz Academy Miami (JAM) will present the U.S. debut of contemporary ensemble **BLACK STRING**. Rooted in the rich, folkloric traditions of Korea, as well as in modern Jazz, this exciting quartet creates a unique language that is traditional yet unpredictable and broadens the appreciation for world music by presenting an ancient tradition within a modern setting. *The Washington Post* wrote, "This is music fully of the 21st century, in all its global, postmodernist glory." A one hour pre-show panel discussion and Q&A with the artists will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 with free lap seats for infants 12-months or younger.

Steve Solomon's *My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm In Therapy* on Saturday, January 14 at 8 p.m. is one of the longest-running one-man comedy shows in history, Solomon brings to life his myriad of relatable characters, including Uncle Willie, Stuttering Cousin Bob, Demented Cousin Kenny, Steve's new therapist and Cousin Sal (and Sal's parole officer), via voices, dialects and sound effects. *Variety* lauds, "Steve is Alan King, Billy Crystal, a smidgen of Don Rickles and George Carlin all thrown in." Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

The Aventura Cultural Series *Sundays at Five* continues on Sunday, January 15 at 5 p.m. with Italian pianist **Pietro De Maria**, who will present a program including pieces by Chopin, Ligeti and Liszt. Born in Venice, he won First Prize at the Cortot Piano Competition in Milan at the age of 13. After receiving the Critics' Prize at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1990), De Maria won first prize awards in many other prestigious international piano competitions. The *Boston Globe* wrote, "He is a true virtuoso, meaning that he has the pianistic resources to do anything he wants to, not that he advertises his technique." The series is presented by The Miami International Piano Festival, which celebrates its 20th Anniversary this season. Tickets are \$35.

On Friday, January 20 at 8 p.m., *Side by Side: A Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme Tribute* offers an energetic salute to the "King & Queen of the Nightclub World" and is filled with some of the most recognizable songs of the 20th Century, including "Blame It on the Bossa Nova," "Besame Mucho" and "Sentimental Journey." Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

Next up in the Aventura Comedy Series, presented by Singer Production and Entertainment, is **Bobby Slaton. . .The Pitbull of Comedy on Saturday, January 21 at 8 p.m.** For more than 30 years, Slaton has been lauded for his own intense style of stand-up. Audience members also might recognize Slaton from his scene-stealing roles in *Get Shorty*, *Ed Wood* and *Dream Girls*, as well as his role as Joey Bishop in *The Rat Pack* and dozens of television appearances including *Comic Relief* and as a regular on the HBO series *Mind of a Married Man*. Tickets are \$39.50 and \$44.50.

The Aventura Broadway Concert Series begins on **Wednesday, January 25 at 8 p.m.** with **Sierra Boggess**, who made her Broadway debut in 2007 by originating the role of Ariel in Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and just finished her role as school principal Rosalie Mullins in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical adaptation of *School of Rock*. Boggess is set to star next as Christine Daaé in the 30th anniversary Paris production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Tickets are \$40, \$45.

Step Afrika!, one of the top ten African American dance companies in the U.S., takes to Aventura stage for a heart-pounding celebration of stepping – an original art form that encompasses intricate kicks, stomps and rhythms combined with spoken word. According to *The Washington Post*, Step Afrika! is ". . .always visually and musically exciting."

- **Presented as a Smart Stage Matinee on Friday, January 27 at 10 and 11:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$10 with \$3 lap seats for infants 12-months or younger.
- **Presented as an evening performance on Saturday, January 28 at 8 p.m.** Tickets are \$35 and \$40.

Family members of all ages will be charmed by ***Biscuit The Little Yellow Puppy*** on **Saturday, January 28 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.**, as the musical spotlights the adventures of the frolicking, mischievous little pup, as he learns about the joys of being part of a family. Part of the Family Fun Series at Aventura, tickets include pre-show art activities and other surprises. Tickets are \$16 for individual seats in advance and \$18 the day of the show with \$3 lap seats for infants 12 months or younger.

Rounding out the January entertainment at Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is ***What's New Pussycat? Soundtrack of a Generation*** on **Sunday, January 29 at 7 p.m.**, an evening of song, entertainment and music that will have the audience singing along with hits including "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'," "Downtown," "The Long and Winding Road," "Bridge over Troubled Water," "Leaving on a Jet Plane," "My Girl," "My Guy" and "Eleanor Rigby." Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Aventura Arts & Cultural Center and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at aventuracenter.org; by phone at 877-311-7469; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center box office Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to each performance. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers. For Group Sales, please call 954-660-6307.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts manages the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, a 14,864-square-foot, 330-seat waterfront complex that hosts performing arts, cultural and educational programming for all ages. The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is located at 3385 N.E. 188 Street in Aventura. Join the conversation on Twitter at #AventuraCenter, and follow us on Face Book at facebook.com/aventuracenter and Instagram at aventuracenter.