

SaratogaArtsFest Center and Gallery to open on Broadway

Public invited to grand opening on May 23

A sure sign that SaratogaArtsFest is just around the corner is the opening of the festival's Center and Gallery, located each year in downtown Saratoga Springs. As the festival's headquarters, the Center sells festival admissions packages and merchandise, provides ArtsFest information, and exhibits works by featured artists.

This year's SaratogaArtsFest, scheduled for June 9-12, will open its new headquarters—located at 516 Broadway, near the Saratoga Springs City Center—on Monday, May 16. The center's grand opening celebration will take place on Monday, May 23, from 4 to 6 p.m.

"The grand opening is an excellent opportunity to mingle with ArtsFest organizers and artists, explore the gallery exhibits, and get more information about the festival events," said Mary Ellen O'Loughlin, executive director of SaratogaArtsFest. "Stop in early to get your ARTSPASS admission package and stay a while to enjoy the atmosphere."

The artists and organizations represented at the May 23 grand opening will include:

- Visual artists Ralph Caparulo, Sandra Capecci, and Takeyce Walter, whose work is featured in the exhibition at the Center and Gallery.
- Saratoga Arts, whose executive director Joel Reed will be available to discuss his organization's programs featured during SaratogaArtsFest, including the film and music-oriented Delta Blues Night. Reed will also answer questions about the "Paint a Colt" project, in which local students designed and painted a fiberglass horse, to be auctioned off at the June 9 *Prelude* fundraiser for the ArtsFest.
- Joel Brown, chair of the Music Department at Skidmore College and a member of the folk-blues-jazz group Triple Play, which will be performing at the ArtsFest with jazz icon Dave Brubeck. When it takes the stage at Skidmore College's Arthur Zankel Music Center on Friday, June 10, Triple Play will perform some of its original tunes as well as Dave Brubeck standards.

The required seating tickets for the Triple Play/Brubeck show are expected to sell out (\$5 with an ARTSPASS or Festival Pass, or \$45 without), so music enthusiasts are urged to stop by the ArtsFest Center and Gallery as soon as possible to make this purchase.

As an incentive to visit the center, a free cinch bag with the festival logo will be given away with the first 100 ARTSPASS packages to be purchased or picked up.

SaratogaArtsFest Admission Packages may be purchased at the center or online at www.SaratogaArtsFest. Admissions materials must be picked up at the center. Anyone who received a 2011 ARTSPASS as a gift or bought one early at the promotional rate may bring the ceramic ARTSPASS or certificate to the center to receive a full set of

admission materials.

The prices for the Admission Packages are adult \$35; students (18+ with student i.d.), \$20; military, \$15; youth (children 5-17), \$5. Children under age 5 are admitted free.

For the center's hours of operation, visit www.Saratoga.ArtsFest.org. The center phone number is 518-580-8010.

SaratogaArtsFest, now in its fifth year, is a citywide celebration of the arts spanning music, dance, visual art, film, theatre, and literary art. The full festival schedule and program details are available at the ArtsFest web site.