

## PRESS RELEASE



Contact: Melanie Messer  
Office: (904) 281-5599, ext. 18

### Cathedral Arts Performing Arts Showcase in May features Jacksonville's smallest up and coming stars

**Jacksonville, Fla. (April 22, 2009)** –More than 600 elementary students throughout Florida's First Coast will become stars in Cathedral Arts Project's (CAP) annual Showcase of the Arts at Jacksonville's historic Ritz Theatre on May 2-3. Performances are scheduled for 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Cathedral Arts makes music, art and dance classes available to underserved students who would not typically have access to these programs. There is no dress rehearsal for the program as many of these students take the stage for the first time in their lives.

The presenting sponsor is Publix Super Markets Charities. Tickets for the event are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children, and may be purchased at the door, with proceeds benefitting CAP's programs and services.

In addition to a series of performances, the showcase will include awards presentations to all "CAP Kids" for their unique talents, enthusiasm and commitment to the arts. Dance routines, plays and musical performances will be presented to an audience of family members, teachers and friends, with acts ranging from classical ballet, violin and band to West African dance and salsa. Cathedral Arts' all boys drum line will be featured as well.

In continuation with Mayor John Peyton's RALLY Jacksonville early learning initiative, the theme of this year's showcase is "Literacy in the Arts." Each of CAP's teaching artists has been asked to select a piece of literature that will stir their students' imaginations and inspire their artwork and performances.

Over 1,200 students are enrolled in Cathedral Arts' afterschool classes this school year. The program's mission is to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Florida through unleashing the creative spirit of young people. By providing access to instruction in the visual and performing arts, CAP empowers underserved school-aged children to succeed in all areas of their lives.

Today, CAP has grown to become the largest provider of free, ongoing and standards-based instruction in the visual and performing arts for public school students in Duval County. The Cathedral Arts Project is funded in part by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, The City of Jacksonville, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information, contact Melanie Messer, director of community relations, at (904) 281-5599, ext. 18.

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