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KATE D. LEVIN
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Mayor's Awards for Arts and Culture 2007 Honorees

Philippe de Montebello

To the millions of people who visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art each year, Philippe de Montebello is its signature voice, guiding visitors in special exhibitions and installations through the audio guides that he has narrated throughout his 30-year tenure as the longest-serving Director in the Museum's 135-year history. To the Museum world, he is known as one of the field's most influential and articulate champions of integrity, authority, education, and public access.

Born in Paris, Mr. de Montebello attended French schools through the baccalaureate. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1958, and after serving as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, received an advanced degree from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. Mr. de Montebello became an American citizen in 1955.

With the exception of four-and-a-half years as Director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas (1969-1974), Mr. de Montebello has spent his entire career at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He joined the Museum as a curatorial assistant in 1963, rising to Associate Curator in the Department of European Paintings. In 1974, Mr. de Montebello was appointed Vice Director for Curatorial and Educational Affairs, a post he held until he became Director in July 1977.

Under Mr. de Montebello's leadership, the Museum has nearly doubled in size, vastly increasing its exhibition space. It has acquired significant collections and masterpieces, mounted acclaimed international loan exhibitions, developed wide-reaching educational programs, and reinstalled much of its permanent collections in new and refurbished galleries.

Stressing that the presentation of the collections remains the institution's fundamental responsibility, Mr. de Montebello has committed the Metropolitan to a future policy of amelioration, rather than growth, focusing on such marked improvements as the redesigned Tiepolo gallery, refinements to the areas surrounding The Temple of Dendur in The Sackler Wing, and the ongoing reinstallation of much of the Museum's Egyptian collection, including the temples of Perneb and Raemkai. Recent initiatives include the renovation, expansion, and reinstallation of the Metropolitan's Greek and Roman Galleries, including the Museum's Roman Court and Etruscan Galleries, and the new and vastly expanded Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education—all while launching the reconstruction, expansion, and reinstallation of the American Wing.

Among his professional affiliations are membership on the Board of Trustees of New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, and membership on the Columbia University Advisory Council of the Departments of Art and Archaeology. He is also a Trustee of the American Federation of Arts, and a member of the

editorial board of the International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship. Mr. de Montebello lectures on museum issues throughout the world, is the author of several influential op-ed pieces in the New York Times and other publications, and is a regular commentator on art and museological matters in the broadcast media.

He has been awarded numerous honors and a number of honorary degrees and fellowships from New York University, Lafayette College, Bard College, and Iona College. In March 2003 The President of the United States awarded him The National Medal of Arts, noting that by "promoting wide-reaching programs that bring art to the American people, he has helped to preserve, protect, and present the cultural and artistic heritage of our world."

Beverly Ffolkes-Bryant

Brooklyn, teaching and the arts have been part of Beverly Ffolkes-Bryant's life since birth.

Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant was educated in the New York City public schools and is a graduate of Music and Art High School. She received her Bachelor's degree at Adelphi University in 1975, and graduated with her Master's degree at Teacher's College/Columbia University in 1977. She is currently a Doctoral Candidate at St. John's University. Her dissertation study, coincidentally, is about arts integration and student learning.

Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant commenced her teaching career in 1978 when she was appointed as a Common Branch teacher in District 13 (P.S. 307). The following year, she was transferred to District 22 and was appointed to P.S. 152, where she has remained since her appointment. She became Assistant Principal of P.S. 152 in 1992. In 1998, when the then Superintendent John T. Comer was looking for a way to better manage the very overcrowded P.S. 152, he asked Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant to implement her vision of creating an Elementary School of the Performing Arts. He appointed her as Founding Principal of a brand new school, P.S. 315, which was housed in the same building.

Under Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant leadership, P.S. 315 has been honored with numerous awards from both community and professional organizations, including; WNBC's "*What's Good About New York*" series with Maurice Dubois; WABC's "*Eyewitness Newsreel*" and a Proclamation from the Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz about the highly effective collaboration between P.S. 315 and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. In 2006, the New York State Alliance for Arts Education awarded P.S. 315 its *Creative Ticket Award* for outstanding commitment to providing students with high quality, sequential arts programs. In January 2005, the New York Department of Education designated P.S. 315 one of just 68 schools citywide to be a "*Collaborative Community of Practice*" school. In June 2006, New York State presented the school with a "*High Performance/Gap Closing School*" plaque, thereby recognizing the school's steadily rising test scores and its success in reducing failure. In 2007, P.S. 315 was nominated and recognized for the *National School Change Award*.

In recognition of her many academic and professional accomplishments, Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant was asked to be a Mentor for the New York City Department of Education's "*Aspiring Principal's Leadership*

Program". She is also listed in *Who's Who Among American Educators*. In 2002, she received a Citation from the then Brooklyn Borough President, Howard Golden, celebrating her outstanding contribution to education and the arts. In 2006, Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs recognized Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant for her contributions to the community.

Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant has also worked with many of the City's cultural organizations. She has written curriculum for the New York City Opera's "*Opera is Elementary*" program and was one of the initial contributing authors for the Metropolitan Opera Guild's "*Children Create Opera*" program. Under her leadership, P.S. 315 has received numerous grants designed to support the integration of the arts and education.

Mrs. Ffolkes-Bryant resides in Crown Heights, Brooklyn with her husband, Gregory and her children David and Victoria. Her life's philosophy is in tandem with what is written in Micah 6:8 -- "*Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.*"

New York Fringe Festival

The New York International Fringe Festival (FringeNYC) is the largest multi-arts festival in North America, and is run almost entirely by volunteers. Operating as the "great inverted pyramid", the festival features:

- 75,000 audience members
- 5,000 artists
- 1,500 volunteers
- 800 applications
- 200 shows
- 20 venues and
- 2 full time staff members

Best known as the birthplace of Broadway's Tony-Award winning *Urinetown!*, the festival has launched dozens of off-Broadway shows, screenplays, published plays, and director, designer, and actor careers. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Elena K. Holy, FringeNYC recently celebrated its 11th year of presenting two hundred shows in twenty theaters each August in downtown Manhattan. For more than a decade, FringeNYC has operated almost entirely on earned income, all while maintaining a top ticket price of \$15.

The Point Community Development Corporation

The Point Community Development Corporation is a non-profit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. Founded in 1994, The Point was originally conceived as a way to stimulate culture and enterprise in the neighborhood. Through free and low-cost instruction in photography, dance, music, theater to residents, performances and exhibitions, such as the South Bronx Film & Video Festival; and a "Marketplace," which includes a soul food café and catering company and a silk-painting and design business operated by

community youth, The Point is committed to working with community members to encourage the arts, local enterprise, responsible ecology, and self-investment in the Hunts Point community.

Anna Deavere Smith

Anna Deavere Smith is more than an actress, playwright, teacher and author - she is known to have created a new form of theater. Part journalism, part theater, most of her plays take controversial subjects and present them from multiple viewpoints. In fact, Ms. Deavere Smith has been known to play as many as 46 characters in the course of an evening.

Her work in the theater has garnered her several awards, among them the prestigious MacArthur Award, two Tony nominations and two Obies. Her books include *Letters to a Young Artist*, *Talk to Me* and several published plays.

Ms. Deavere Smith has also acted in films and television. She played Nancy McNally, the National Security Advisor, on NBC's former hit show *The West Wing*, and has had roles in the films *The American President* and *The Human Stain*. She is currently in production with Jonathan Demme's new film *Dancing With Shiva*.

She is currently University Professor at New York University, where she is appointed at the Tisch School of the Arts and affiliated with the School of Law. She was previously at Stanford University (1990-2000), and is founder of the Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue, which was launched at Harvard and is now at NYU. She has several honorary degrees – among them Northwestern, Smith, Bryn Mawr, Wesleyan, Holy Cross and Cooper Union.

Ms. Deavere Smith is on the board of the Museum of Modern Art, where she chairs the Committee on Film.

Time Warner Inc.

As the world's leading media and entertainment company, Time Warner recognizes that creativity and diversity are essential to the long-term success of its business and vital to the communities it serves. Through a series of innovative philanthropic initiatives that broaden access to the arts, engage youth, and nurture emerging voices, the company is committed to keeping the arts rich, relevant, and accessible.

In 2005, Time Warner partnered with the Signature Theater Company to offer every seat for every performance in the Theater's 15th anniversary season for \$15. As a result, 30% of audiences were under age 35 and 50% of audiences were new to Signature. Recently, Time Warner and Signature recently announced \$20 tickets for the next four years, through its 20th anniversary season.

Time Warner supports quality New York City-based after-school programming through the Youth Media and Arts Fund, a program that allows underserved teens to develop their own artistic voices while acquiring skills that prepare them for success in school, work, and life. This year, the company awarded

grants to 14 community-based youth media and arts organizations including The Point, Reel Works Teen Filmmaking, and Urban Word NYC.

Time Warner also provides support small theaters that are bringing the works of emerging and diverse artists to New York City stages, through its Diverse Voices Small Theater Fund. In 2006, 24 organizations throughout the city were awarded grants through this program.

In 2005, Time Warner collaborated with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs to launch Arts Advantage/NYC, an initiative that helps develop effective marketing, fundraising, and operating strategies for small and mid-size arts organizations. Thirty-three organizations – museums, dance companies, theaters, and others – have participated.

George Way

George Way is a native New Yorker. He was born in Astoria, Queens, moved to Staten Island, attended Curtis High School and spent the rest of his life "on the island." At age sixteen, he discovered what he was sure was the oldest chair in the world in the basement of Christ Church in West Brighton. This singular event led him on a path that has taken him through all five boroughs -- and well beyond -- in search of 16th and 17th centuries antiques.

As a teenager, Mr. Way obtained much of his knowledge about furniture by frequenting the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where he became a "regular." It is said that the Museum guards were kept busy turning furniture upside down for him so that he could study construction techniques as well as search for and distinguish owners' and makers' marks.

Today, Mr. Way is often described as having one of the finest collections of early English furniture outside the United Kingdom. His collection consists of some 95 period chairs and nearly 150 Old Master paintings. A duplicate of one of his chairs is on exhibit at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and it is said that his own apartment is filled with some of the finest treasures in the City.

Recognized as a true connoisseur, Mr. Way is described as self-educated and has worked at a Pathmark deli on Staten Island for over 35 years. *Art & Antiques Magazine* honored him as one of America's top 100 collectors for four years, and *People Magazine* recognized him as one of America's Amazing Americans. He has been featured in *The New York Times*, and a number of other New York City publications, including the *Staten Island Advance*, to which he contributes a popular monthly antiques column. His collection has been recognized by numerous national publications including *Esquire* and *Forbes*, and has been featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *NBC News with Tom Brokaw*, *The Today Show*, *BBC*, *CNN National and International* and *National Public Radio*. For a number of years, Mr. Way acted as the Early Furniture Consultant for Christie's East in Manhattan.

Mr. Way has exhibited his collection at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, the Staten Island Museum of Arts & Sciences and the Alice Austen House Museum in Staten Island; the Folger Shakespeare Library in

Washington, D.C.; the Newark Museum and the Trent House in New Jersey; the Albany Institute of Art; Fashion Institute of Technology; Grey Art Gallery at NYU; and Pennsbury Manor in Pennsylvania.

While pursuing his passion, Mr. Way has credited New York City for being the finest hunting grounds for his collection.