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**THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND MIAMI LIGHT PROJECT
PRESENT
ITALY'S COMPAGNIA T.P.O.'s GROUNDBREAKING PRODUCTION
THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

**AN INTERACTIVE THEATRICAL SPECTACULAR FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES!
Enter a beautiful botanical playground full of digital wonders!**

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

**April 16 & 17, 2010
Tickets \$15
Carnival Studio Theater
In the Ziff Ballet Opera House**

MIAMI, FL March 23, 2010 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and Miami Light Project present the breath-taking, interactive fairytale performance, **THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN**, Friday, April 16th at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 17th at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5 p.m., at the Carnival Studio Theater in the Ziff Ballet Opera House. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at (305) 949-6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

In **THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN**, Italian theater company Teatro di Piazza o d'Occasione (T.P.O.) incorporates computer graphics and digital technologies to create a thrilling new experience in participatory theater. The children's cheering carpet, a groundbreaking device that uses touch sensors, transforms the stage into a magical landscape from which beautiful botanical images, rainforest sounds, and brilliant prisms of color emerge in every direction in real-time response to the dancers' movements. Even bigger thrills come when young ones from the audience are invited to touch and explore the glowing interactive garden themselves.

“**BUTTERFLY GARDEN** is a special show that blurs the boundaries between performer and audience,” said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. “Coming to Miami all the way from Italy, this production enchants young and old alike with astonishing images and cutting-edge technology. South Florida families are in for a real treat when they enter this magical, fantastical world onstage at the Carnival Studio Theater.”

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN was initially conceptualized as an experiment in the expressive potential arising from the use of new digital languages associated with dance, music, and movement. The resulting theatrical experience is a delight for the senses -- merging dance and music with software sensors to create magnificent visual projections, original sounds, and 3D animations throughout the performance space. **BUTTERFLY GARDEN** is a technologically sophisticated show with the heart and soul of a curious, adventurous child. The company dancers simulate the wings of butterflies, moving through space like ballerinas painting on air with their great wings. Meanwhile, members of the audience are invited to take part, entering the stage and moving among the images, which in turn react to their gestures and movements by morphing or multiplying, filling the space with light, color, and sound. **BUTTERFLY GARDEN** is a theatrical wonderland that brings nature and magic to life.

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN was conceived and directed by **Francesco Gandi** and **Davide Venturini**. Since 1997, **Gandi** has worked with T.P.O. as an author, actor, and director. His productions typically feature large-scale images, props, and most recently, innovations in technology. **Gandi** currently serves as the President of the T.P.O. Cultural Association. **Venturini** studied sociology at Cesar Alfieri University in Florence and has been with T.P.O. since 1983. He theatrical productions highlight pedagogical aspects of art, specifically, the processes of visual communication and interrelation. His work on **BUTTERFLY GARDEN** explores the combination of powerful visual images with the use of high-tech devices. **Venturini** currently holds the post of Artistic Director of T.P.O.

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN's engagement at the Arsht Center also includes a dynamic community outreach component that will provide nine free performances for local community centers, social service providers, and school groups. Selected groups will participate with the company in interactive, hands-on sessions on the show's set after designated performances, allowing the participants to be part of the multi-media theater magic.

CALENDAR LISTING

The Adrienne Arsht Center and Miami Light Project present

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

An interactive theatrical spectacular for audiences of all ages!

Enter a spellbinding world of *The Butterfly Garden*, as beautiful botanical images and captivating rainforest sounds engulf you as a simple studio morphs into a magical playground that responds to the graceful movement of two beautiful dancers. Even bigger thrills come when young ones from the audience are invited to touch and explore the glowing interactive garden themselves.

"Redefines the idea of interactive theater!" – *Scoop Independent News* (New Zealand)

April 16 & 17, 2010
Friday, April 16th at 7:30pm
Saturday, April 17th at 11am, 2pm, and 5pm
Carnival Studio Theater
In the Ziff Ballet Opera House
Adrienne Arsht Center
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL, 33132

Tickets: \$15

For tickets visit www.arshtcenter.org, or call the Box Office at (305) 949-6722.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information for details and schedules.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, and Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Education and Outreach is funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation, Inc. through its Visionary Society membership program and its Encore Circle major gifts program; American Express Company; Arison Arts Foundation; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency; Dade Community Foundation; Funding Arts Network; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Southern Arts Federation; The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council.

Editor's Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available at www.arshtcenter.org/press and www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos.

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About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County:

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open five days a week.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

About Miami Light Project

Founded in 1989, Miami Light Project is a not-for-profit cultural organization which presents live performances by innovative dance, music and theater artists from around the world; supports the development of new work by Miami-based artists; and offers educational for students of every age. Since our inception, we have reached a diverse cross-section of communities throughout Miami-Dade County with an extensive outreach effort that includes partnerships with other arts organizations, universities and social service agencies. Miami Light Project is a cultural forum to explore some of the issues that define contemporary society. www.miamilightproject.com

About Compagnia T.P.O.

The TPO was founded in 1981 as a visual theatre company. From its early years the company produced children's theatre conceived as paintings in movement, making use of artistic objects, mechanical devices, and plays of light. Since then the group has continued to focus its attention on the figurative arts, with performances for children that have been defined as works that bring together theatre and contemporary art. Since 1999, under the direction of Davide Venturini and Francesco Gandi, TPO has been exploring the use of digital graphics, combining traditional theatre with other artistic forms such as dance and video art.

Their experimental work with digital technologies facilitated the development of new modes of interaction between performers and the stage-space, by applying computer-controlled sensors to images and sound. This process has led to "CCC [children cheering carpet]", a theatrical concept in which performances are conceived as imaginary journeys in "sensory gardens", where artists dance in the middle of a landscape made up of images and sounds, exploring new ways of telling stories. CCC is a "theatre of the senses", where the audience can also explore the space and take part in an experience of "immersive theatre". It is a playful play - playing with the arts. The success of this project has brought international fame to TPO and has opened up new paths for collaboration with a variety of European artists (actors, dancers, musicians, writers, engineers, designers and illustrators). This synergy has given rise to projects which put new technologies to artistic use, creating an innovative relationship between children and performers.

The CCC [Children Cheering Carpet] Project

Between 2002 and 2007 the company developed "CCC [children cheering carpet]", a technology applied to a mat specially fitted with sensors that produce sounds and images projected from above. At the same time, the group has continued its study of the dynamics of theatrical communication, based on the language of the body and images. From this research new developments have led to the creation of 3D virtual sceneries. Currently the Company is using the MaxMsp software Jitter, able to run evolved forms of interactivity among performers, images and sounds. The "CCC" format has enabled TPO to create performances and interactive installations that children and adults appreciate throughout the world. The company has taken part in numerous international festivals in Europe, Asia, the Americas and Australia and at present is recognized as one of the most original and outstanding groups for children's theatre in Europe.

TPO is a residence company based at Teatro Metastasio Stabile della Toscana with the support of Ministry of Culture and Tuscany Regional fund.