



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2008

CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREES TO DONALD MCKAYLE AND PETER SELLARS

SEATTLE, WA – Choreographer/Director/Writer Donald McKayle, and Theater/Opera/Festival Director, Peter Sellars, have been selected to receive Honorary Degrees from Cornish College of the Arts. The degrees will be presented at the Cornish Commencement Ceremony on May 9, 2008 at 1pm at Benaroya Hall, where both artists will address the graduating class.

The Cornish College of the Arts Class of 2008 includes 149 students. Of those, 123 students will receive Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees and 26 students will receive Bachelor of Music degrees.

The Commencement Ceremony begins at 1pm with a reception in the main auditorium immediately following.

Cornish College of the Arts
2008 Commencement Ceremony
Friday, May 9, 1 pm
Benaroya Hall
200 University Street

Biographies

Choreographer/Director/Writer **Donald McKayle** has been named by the Dance Heritage Coalition "one of America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures." He has choreographed over 90 works for dance companies in the United States, Canada, Israel, Europe, and South America. In 2005 he was honored at the John F. Kennedy Center with a medal as a Master of African American Choreography. Five Tony Nominations have honored his choreography for Broadway musical theater: *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Doctor Jazz*, *A Time for Singing*, and *Raisin*, which garnered the Tony Award as Best Musical. His dance awards include the Capezio Award, American Dance Guild Award, Living Legend Award/National Black Arts Festival, National Endowment for the Arts, Dance Masters of America, Dance Magazine Award, and American Dance Legacy Institute's Distinguished & Innovative Leadership Award. Mr. McKayle has served on the faculty of numerous international institutions and some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in America. He is currently a Professor of Dance at the University of California, Irvine.

Renowned Theater, Opera, Festival Director **Peter Sellars** is one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the performing arts in America and abroad. Known for his groundbreaking interpretations of classic works, Sellars strikes a universal chord with audiences, engaging contemporary social and political issues. He has staged operas at Chicago Lyric Opera, the Glyndebourne Festival, Netherlands Opera, Opéra National de Paris, the Salzburg Festival, and

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San Francisco Opera, among others. Mr. Sellars has led major arts festivals, including the Los Angeles Festival, the Adelaide Festival in Australia; and the Venice Biennale International

Festival of Theater, Italy. Sellars is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, the Erasmus Prize, the Sundance Institute Risk-Takers Award, the Gish Prize, and was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Sellars is a Professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA and a resident curator of the Telluride Film Festival.

For additional information on our spring events season, or to request images please contact Meike Kaan or Beth Fleenor (see info above) or visit www.cornish.edu.

About Cornish College of the Arts

Cornish College of the Arts, founded by Nellie Cornish in 1914, provides aspiring artists with the educational opportunities to become professionals in their fields. The College offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Art, Dance, Design, Performance Production and Theater, and a Bachelor of Music degree. It is one of three private colleges in the United States focusing on both the performing and visual arts, and the only college of its kind in the Northwest. The College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

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