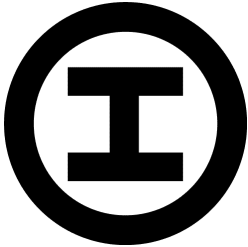


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK

CONTACT: Ellen Staller
718.956.1819 x12



2010 SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION **MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010 / 5-9PM** **RAIN OR SHINE / FREE!**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK'S
9TH ANNUAL SOLSTICE EVENT TO WELCOME THE SUMMER AND
CELEBRATE THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR!**



- **Musical Performance by Reggie Watts** (Estimated start time: 6:30pm)
- **Splash! A site-specific dance performance by Dance Entropy**
- **Solstice artmaking workshops presented by Free Style Arts Association, Materials for the Arts, The Noguchi Museum, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens Museum of Art and Socrates Sculpture Park**
- **Park tour performance w/ Lillian Gerson's alter ego, Connie O'Nassis**
- **Face Painting by Agostino Arts)**
- **Soulstice Ritual performed by Urban Shaman Mama Donna**
- **Have a picnic and enjoy the view as the sun sets over the Manhattan skyline!**

Long Island City, NY (June 2010) – On Monday, June 21 from 5 to 9pm, Socrates Sculpture Park will present its ninth annual Summer Solstice Celebration. This FREE event celebrates the beginning of summer and the longest day of the year with performances, music, art, and food. Visitors can take part in free Solstice artmaking workshops, have their faces painted, enjoy music, picnic in the Park, or just watch the fun!

Hilarious, brilliant, unpredictable – comedian/musician **Reggie Watts** is a staple of the international performance scene. Reggie's improvised musical sets are created on-the-spot using only his formidable voice and a looping machine. No two songs are ever the same. An avowed "disinformation-ist," Reggie loves to disorientate his audiences in the most entertaining way. You may not know what Reggie is going to do, but that's okay – he doesn't either.

As a solo performer, Reggie has played sold-out runs at Fusebox, SXSW, Bonnaroo, Soho Theatre (London), Brian Eno's Luminous Festival at the Sydney Opera House, Montreal Comedy Festival, PopTech!, Vancouver Comedy Festival, Bumbershoot, Sydney Festival, Outside Lands Festival and cities throughout the world including Amsterdam, Paris, Cologne, Madrid, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Cape Town and Reykjavik, among others. In New York, Reggie regularly

performs at The Box, UCB, Comix, the Bellhouse, Slipper Room, Caroline's, Union Hall and Moonwork. Reggie also received the ECNY Award (2009) and Andy Kaufmann Award (2006) for his brand of innovative stand-up performance. For more information on Reggie Watts, including his full bio, music samples, videos, images and upcoming performances, visit <http://reggiewatts.com>.

Splash! is a site specific performance originally created for a drained outdoor pool with 14 dancers in brightly colored buckets filled with water. Performed by Valerie Green/Dance Entropy and friends, with music by Sound Gallery, Parliament, Led Zeppelin, Bilja Krstic, Doobie Brothers, Rusted Roots, Streams, Esquivel, Louis Prima, Las Toalistas, and Dakota Station, the dance is a structured improvisation to an exciting collage of music about water. Dance Entropy, founded in 1998, is a professional modern dance company that performs in NYC, tours and teaches both domestically and abroad. For more information on Dance Entropy visit <http://www.danceentropy.org/index.html>.

Mama Donna (a.k.a. **Donna Henes**) is an internationally acclaimed spiritual teacher, popular speaker, and award-winning writer specializing in multi-cultural ritual celebrations of the cycles of the seasons and the seasons of our lives. Her joyful celebration of celestial events have introduced ancient traditional rituals and contemporary ceremonies to millions of people in more than one hundred cities for thirty-three years. For a sixth consecutive year, Mama Donna will attend Socrates' Summer Solstice Celebration to present her festive **Soulstice Ritual**.

Kids can participate in creative artmaking workshops throughout the event, presented by **Free Style Arts Association, Materials for the Arts, The Noguchi Museum, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens Museum of Art, and Socrates Sculpture Park**, or have their faces painted by **Agostino Arts**.

Food will be available for purchase by Long Island City's WunderBar German Grill and Bierhaus. The Park offers the perfect setting to have a picnic and enjoy the view as the sun sets over the Manhattan skyline.

Summer Solstice Celebration 2010 will take place in Socrates Sculpture Park amid **Cityscape: Surveying the Urban Biotope**: a group exhibition exploring the presence of nature in the fabric of urban life, with eleven new works by artists: Saul Becker, George Booruji, William Cordova, David Kennedy Cutler, Lillian Gerson, Janelle Iglesias, Katherine McLeod, Ester Partegàs, Zena Verda Pesta, Christine Howard Sandoval, and Mark Lawrence Stafford.

Socrates Sculpture Park was an abandoned riverside landfill and illegal dumpsite until 1986 when a coalition of artists and community members, under the leadership of sculptor Mark di Suvero, transformed it into an open studio and exhibition space for artists and a neighborhood park for local residents. Today, it is an internationally renowned outdoor museum and artist residency program that also serves as a vital New York City park offering a wide variety of free public programs. The Park's existence is based on the belief that reclamation, revitalization and creative expression are essential to the survival, humanity and improvement of our urban environment.

Socrates Sculpture Park is open 365 days a year from 10am to sunset and is located at the intersection of Broadway and Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City. Admission is free. For directions to the Park, please visit www.socratessculpturepark.org.

For additional information including press images, please contact Ellen Staller at 718.956.1819 ext. 12 or es@socratessculpturepark.org.

Socrates Sculpture Park is grateful for the support and generosity of Con Edison.

Special thanks to Materials for the Arts and Plant Specialists, Inc.

Special thanks to the City of New York, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall, City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, City Council Members James G. Van Bramer and Peter F. Vallone Jr., and the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation, Commissioner Adrian Benepe.



socrates sculpture park
city of new york parks & recreation

