FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cambridge Arts Council
presents the
31st Cambridge River Festival
FREE festival of music, dance, theater, poetry, visual arts & more!

and introduces
FIGMENT
an interactive arts event

June 5, 2010, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine)
along the Charles River (Memorial Dr. between JFK St. & Western Ave.)

Cambridge, MA – The 31st Annual **Cambridge River Festival** creates a splash on Saturday, June 5, 2010, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine) with a FREE, one-day celebration of the arts on a mile-long stretch along the banks of the Charles River (Memorial Drive between JFK Street and Western Avenue). Attracting over 200,000 enthusiastic festival-goers annually, the Cambridge River Festival has become a venerable and much-anticipated "institution," produced by the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC), the city's official arts agency. The Cambridge River Festival offers an opportunity to experience arts, cultural and community organizations active year-round in Cambridge, and get inspired to delve more deeply into the local arts scene. Information is available at www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

DOWNLOAD PRESS PHOTOS: http://www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?AlbumID=315

The **Cambridge River Festival** features multiple stages of live local and national jazz, folk, world music, dance, poetry and theater performances by Cambridge artists, music venues, arts and cultural organizations. Stages are coordinated by The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center, TOAD and the Lizard Lounge, Central Square Theater, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, and Cambridge Poet Populist Jean-Dany Joachim, and feature American Repertory Theater, Stan Strickland Group, Shelley Neill Group, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Mango Blue, ImprovBoston, Vanessa Trien & the Jumping Monkeys, Behind the Mask Theater, Beyond the 4th Wall, A Different Spin Circus and many more! (For a full list of performances, see the schedule below.) Entertainment also includes interactive, family, art-making activities, performances, workshops and demonstrations. While taking in the sights and sounds, browse through a market of unique arts & crafts, and enjoy a grand assortment of specialty foods and traditional festival fare.

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This year's **Cambridge River Festival**, the Cambridge Arts Council honors the memory of legendary storyteller "Brother Blue." The Festival opens with a procession led by a large-scale puppet of Brother Blue and his iconic butterflies, created by Eric Bornstein of Behind the Mask Theater. The procession starts at 11:30 a.m. in Winthrop Park in Harvard Square (JFK St. and Mt. Auburn St.) and processes along JFK St. to the Charles River. The Brother Blue puppet will be heralded onto the festival grounds with entertainment from Revels River Festival Chorus, A Different Spin Circus and Fire Arts, Central Square Theater, Actors' Shakespeare Project, and many others. The procession culminates at the Theater Stage (Memorial Drive at Plympton Street) where Revels will lead a group sing-along of a *Song for Blue*, an original composition honoring Brother Blue. At 12:00 Noon, puppet butterflies flutter to several activity locations, where storytelling activities will take place throughout the day.

"**Brother Blue** was a one-of-kind Cambridge treasure. We wanted to give him a larger-than-life tribute at the Cambridge River Festival to carry on his gift of sharing stories that touch our hearts and spark our imagination," said CAC Executive Director, Jason Weeks.

As a special addition to this year's **Cambridge River Festival**, the Cambridge Arts Council introduces FIGMENT. In collaboration with the CAC, FIGMENT – an arts event featuring participatory arts projects in every conceivable medium, including interactive sculpture, performance, music, social experiments, games, and lectures – takes place side-by-side with the Cambridge River Festival along Memorial Drive in Riverbend Park. More information is available at http://figmentproject.org/2010/events/figment-boston-2010/.

CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 12 NOON – 6PM

Opening Ceremony and Procession, 11:30a.m.
Tribute to legendary, local storyteller Brother Blue
Winthrop Park in Harvard Square (JFK and Mt. Auburn St.) to Charles River
Large-scale puppet of Brother Blue and many blue butterflies created by Eric Bornstein of Behind the Mask Theater lead the procession, culminating with a group sing-along of *Song for Blue,* composed and led by Revels. Follow the blue butterflies as they disperse throughout the festival leading the way to activity areas, celebrating storytelling, street performing, and the art of words.

CREATE STAGE – JAZZ & WORLD MUSIC
Weld Boathouse at JFK Street
Coordinated by The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center
Hosted by Eric Jackson and Steve Schwartz of WGBH 89.7fm

12:00 Valerie Stephens Group: tribute to Nina Simone with vocalist Valerie Stephens, Kevin Harris, keyboard, Stanley Swan, drums, and Daniel Day, bass
1:15 Yoron Israel Group: tribute to David "Fathead" Newman
2:30 Stan Strickland Group: tribute to John Coltrane with Stan Strickland, saxophones and flute, John Lockwood, bass, and Laszlo Gardony, piano
3:45 Shelley Neill Group: *Irish Eyes Gypsy Soul* with Laszlo Gardony, Yoron Israel, and Ron Mahdi
5:00 Mango Blue with Alex Alvear, bass & vocals, Rebecca Cline, keyboards, Ernesto Diaz, congas, Manolo Mairena, vocals, timbal & percussion, David Rivera, drums, Felipe Salles, tenor sax, Jared Sims, alto sax, and Yuriana Sobrino, vocals, timbal & percussion

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INSPIRE STAGE – THEATER
Memorial Drive at Plympton Street (Harvard University Side)
Coordinated by selected by Central Square Theater
Hosted by Maggie Moore Abdow, Education Director, Underground Railway Theater

12:00 American Repertory Theater: excerpts from *Johnny Baseball*
12:25 Actors' Shakespeare Project: scenes from A.S.P. past & future productions
12:45 Central Square Theater: excerpts from *The Lady with All the Answers* &*The Hound of the Baskervilles*
12:45 Central Square Theater: workshop: photo call (on-going throughout day)
1:10 ImprovBoston: great musicals from ImprovBoston history
1:40 Central Square Theater / excerpts from *The Lady with All the Answers* &*The Hound of the Baskervilles*
2:00 American Repertory Theater: performances from *The Donkey Show*
2:15 American Repertory Theater: workshop: learn the Bus Stop and boogie down with the cast of *The Donkey Show* on stage
2:45 Actors' Shakespeare Project: combat workshop: led by A.S.P. Resident Company Member Robert Walsh
3:30 Actors' Shakespeare Project: scenes from A.S.P. past & future productions
3:40 Beyond the 4th Wall / workshop: Acting for Dummies
4:00 ImprovBoston: The ImprovBoston Family Show
4:30 ImprovBoston: ImprovBoston family workshop
5:00 ImprovBoston: Friday Night Face Off
5:00 Central Square Theater: photo call workshop (on and offstage)

CONNECT STAGE – FOLK & ROOTS
Weeks Footbridge at DeWolfe Street
Coordinated by TOAD and The Lizard Lounge
Hosted by Tim Bianchi, Cambridge-based Musician

12:00 The Sweet and Low Down (featuring Miss Tess and Rachael Price)
1:00 The David Wax Museum
2:00 Melvern Taylor and His Fabulous Meltones
2:50 Ronald Reagan (a sax duo performing hits from the 80s)
3:00 Cuddle Magic
3:50 Ronald Reagan
4:00 Danielle Miraglia
4:50 Ronald Reagan
5:00 The Sea Monsters

ENGAGE STAGE – INTERACTIVE DANCE
Memorial Drive across from Flagg Street
Coordinated by José Mateo Ballet Theatre & Dance for World Community
Hosted by Alice Hunter, Cambridge-based choreographer and instructor

12:00 José Mateo Ballet Theatre Youth Works
1:00 OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center: hip-hop step
2:00 La Pinata: samba, capoeira & more
3:00 Mladost Folk Ensemble
4:00 Hyde Square Task Force - Ritmo en Accion: salsa, meringue & more
5:00 Benkadi Drum and Dance: African dance

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CHILDREN & FAMILY STAGE
Corporal Burns Park (Memorial Drive and Flagg Street)
Coordinated by the Cambridge Arts Council
Hosted by Lace Campbell, Artistic Director of Beyond the 4th Wall

12:00 Dan Butterworth Marionettes
1:00 Beyond the 4th Wall: youth theatrical performances
2:00 Odissi Dance by Upasana: lyrical dance from India
3:00 Inkas Wasi: Andean music, dance & traditions
4:00 Behind the Mask Theater: *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun*
5:00 Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys: movin', groovin' kids' music

INTERACTIVE AREAS, ART DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS:

MASK- MAKING DISPLAY & DEMONSTRATIONS WITH BEHIND THE MASK THEATER
Next to the INSPIRE STAGE – THEATER
Host: Eric Bornstein, local artist and proprietor of Behind the Mask Theater
See unique hand-made, large-scale puppets and masks and learn how they are created!

CAMBRIDGE OPEN STUDIOS ARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS
Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge
Hosts: Karen Yoo and Siobhan Bredin
Cambridge Open Studios Artists showcase their works and give hands-on art making demonstrations and instruction.
2:00 Siobhan Bredin & Cambridge Vintage Mystery Theatre: *The Perplexing Public Paintings Puzzle*, 1940s-style mystery play with live sound effects experimentation

Throughout the day:
Kelsey Russell: *Tabula Rasa Art,* an interactive community painting project
Wen-hao Tien: contemporary Chinese calligraphy
Tamar Etingen: gelatin printing
Bobby Brown: recycled materials workshop
Kencaid: wood burning

CAMBRIDGE FOLKLIFE – A SPECTRUM OF CAMBRIDGE CULTURES OLD AND NEW
Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge
Host: Folklorist Millie Rahn
Everyone has a story to tell. Explore the art and traditions of eliciting, telling, and preserving stories through demonstrations and interactive activities.

STORYSTREAM CAMBRIDGE
Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge
1:00, 2:00 & 4:00: Celebrate and share in extraordinary and ordinary stories of Cambridge life through memory games and other participatory activities.

POETRY
Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge
Host: Jean-Dany Joachim, Cambridge's Poet Populist 2009/2010
Enjoy a variety of poetry readings and activities taking place throughout the day.

MASSMOUTH
On the Weeks FootBridge
Bridge to Haiti, folktales in collaboration with visual artists

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CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC AND AFTER-SCHOOL AREA
Corporal Burns Park (Memorial Drive and Flagg Street)
Host: Naomi Bennett
Experience Cambridge students' creativity and talents through performances and art project displays.

Roving Performance
A Different Spin Circus
Cady Vishniac and Amy Suiguitan as Living Statues
Brett Sylvia & Kyle MacKasey, *The Ventures of OP & Grochmier*
Roger Wiegand's Victorian Fairground Organ

Public Art Installations
Corner of Memorial Drive & JFK Street
Sidewalk Sam
Between CONNECT & ENGAGE Stages
Judith Motzkin's *Garden Totems*, participatory art project in clay for all ages
Kendall Dudley's *Public Art for Peace*, Children Make the Difference Project. Co-sponsor: Barakat World. Experience artifacts of daily life from Central Asia; create visual, audio, and written messages for the women and children living in the Barakat World sister communities of Afghanistan; and learn about Barakat World and the cultures of Central Asia.

Introducing FIGMENT
Riverbend Park
The Cambridge Arts Council welcomes FIGMENT, an arts event featuring participatory arts projects in every conceivable medium, taking place side-by-side the Cambridge River Festival. Play, interact, enjoy! www.figmentproject.org

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QUICK FACTS

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS THE 31ST CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL & INTRODUCES FIGMENT: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010

WHAT: 31st Cambridge River Festival
Celebrate the arts with this FREE festival along the banks of the Charles River, featuring:

- Hundreds of local and nationally renowned jazz, folk, blues, and world music performers on multiple stages
- Interactive dance, theater, storytelling, and poetry performances & demonstrations
- Public art installations designed for the festival
- Family entertainment & art-making activities
- Over 200 specialty food purveyors and craftspeople
- **FIGMENT*:*** The Cambridge Arts Council welcomes FIGMENT to Boston. Featuring participatory arts projects in every conceivable medium, including interactive sculpture, performance, music, social experiments, games, and lectures, this interactive "arts event" takes place alongside the Cambridge River Festival between Akron Street and Western Avenue along Memorial Drive. FIGMENT is co-presented by the Action Arts League, Inc. and the Cambridge Arts Council.
  Information: http://figmentproject.org/2010/events/figment-boston-2010

WHEN: Saturday, June 5, 2010, 12 Noon – 6pm *Rain or Shine!*

WHERE: Along a mile-long stretch of Memorial Drive between JFK St. and Western Ave.
Between Harvard Square & Central Square on Memorial Drive
Nearest MBTA station: Harvard Square on the Red Line
Wheelchair accessible

ATTENDANCE: 200,000 annually
ADMISSION: Event is FREE

PRODUCER: Cambridge Arts Council – an award-winning city arts agency founded in 1974
www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380

MEDIA CONTACTS:
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PHOTOS:
300 dpi photos are available at http://www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?AlbumID=315

SPONSORS *(as of May 26, 2010)*
Festival Sponsors: Volkswagen Group of America,
UMASS/Caitlin Raymond International Registry, LAUNCH!/Dr. Oetker Ristorante Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Owens Corning, ACM Quick Cash
Media Sponsors: Panorama Magazine, WGBH, Weekly Dig, and Artscope Magazine
Site Sponsors: City of Cambridge, Department of Conservation & Recreation, and Harvard University

Cambridge Arts Council – *Nurturing the Arts in Cambridge*
The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge.
www.cambridgeartscouncil.org

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