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Mantra Siam Performing Arts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DANCE / MARTIAL ARTS EVENT LISTINGS

Photos available upon request

Mantra Siam Performing Arts presents
Sarttrawut: The Art of Weaponry
August 29, 2010 8 PM
at Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood Hills, CA

After a successful performance with Ford Theatres in 2008 with “Legend of the Chao Phraya: The Siamese River of Life,” **Mantra Siam Performing Arts** is proud to present “Sarttrawut,” a presentation of the most exclusive and eye-popping stunner that will give audiences an insight into Thailand’s historically-prized treasure: the art of Thai weaponry. Weapons, such as swords, knives, lances, and spears, are all made of metal and designed especially for performing purposes. Costumes, all handmade and imported from Thailand, are modeled in warm earth tones after ancient warriors during the last two centuries and to reflect the Buddhist philosophy. Sarttrawut will not only portray the true definition of discipline and motivation, but also the beauty of each historic weapon as it was used to keep Thailand as the only country in the world to never have been colonized by any foreign country.

The show, featuring a total of 30 performers, will not necessarily focus on the fighting techniques used in warfare; instead, it will reflect more on the origination and beauty of fighting rather than the violent components. “Sarttrawut” is produced by Saroj Vayuchote, founder of Mantra Siam Performing Arts in 1997 and co-producer of “Legend of the Chaophraya: The Siamese River of Life” in 2008, and choreographed by Chotiros Viboonlarp, a Grammy artist in Thailand. Music is composed and arranged by Jessada Sookdhramorn, a renowned artist from Grammy in Thailand as well.

Mantra Siam is honored to have a group of respected alumni artists from **Chulalongkorn University** in Thailand and **University of California Los Angeles** to join us in demonstrating the art. All artists from Thailand were auditioned and approved by the Board of Directors from Thailand, and have received recognition by Princess Ubolrtana of Thailand. Thirty artists will fly to California exclusively for this show.

We are also honored to have the **Hands On’Semble**, an L.A. percussion ensemble band of four, will perform percussion music components for the demonstrations. Lead by Randy Gloss, Hands On’Semble has earned various awards in Hollywood and have recently featured in the 2010 Soudtrack for the film “Prince of Persia: Sands of Time.”

Come join us for an eventful evening at the Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood Hills, CA on August 29, 2010 at 8pm. Doors will be opening at 6:00 pm. Food, drink, and various other vendors will be there to give you a taste of exotic Thai foods.

Ticket Information:

Early Buyer Incentives –

From Now –through August 22 Prices are:

\$30 Regular

\$65 VIP

Students/Children: \$12

August 22- August 29:

\$35 Regular

\$70 VIP

Students/Children: \$12

For tickets, please visit:

www.FordTheatres.org and click on “Events” then “Dance” then “Mantra Siam Performing Arts: Sartrawut”

or call Ford Theatres’ Box Office: **323-461-367**

ABOUT MANTRA SIAM PERFORMING ARTS

Established in 1997 by a group of alumni from the College of Dramatic Arts in Thailand and art majors from Chulalongkorn University and later joined by Ethnomusicology graduates from UCLA, Mantra Siam Performing Arts, based in Hollywood, is the first Thai performance ensemble of its kind in the United States. In an effort to promote and preserve Thai music and dance, they have combined traditional Thai compositions with original contemporary arrangements, at times accompanied by dance and vocals, in order to appeal to wider audience.

Mantra Siam Vision Statement:

We help promote and support personnel, teachers, and artists studying in the field of performing arts and music in order to improve creativity as well as publication of the Thai culture to be at a standard level for entering the international stage. We would like to build a productive community that would become the center of teaching and passing down knowledge, trigger creative thinking skills, and able to support a changing work environment. In addition, we expect all members to be respectful towards one another and towards our goal in order to create financial and social stability, as well as a better working environment for all individuals.

ABOUT HANDS ON’SEMBLE

Founded in 1997 by John Bergamo, Randy Gloss, Andrew Grueschow, and Austin Wrinkle, the Hands On’Semble’s talent in hand drumming has earned them various recognitions, including Drum! Magazine awards for “Best Percussion Ensemble” in 2002-2003. Audiences will leave the theatre with refreshing knowledge about the Thai culture, arts, and history.

ABOUT THE FORD AMPHITHEATRE

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. The grounds open two hours before showtime for picnicking. The Ford offers a number of dining options: a variety of food and beverages is available on site and box dinners for evening events may be ordered in advance. Patrons are welcome to bring their own food and drink.

The Ford is disabled accessible. Portable wireless listening devices are available upon request. **On-site, stacked parking** costs \$5 per vehicle for evening shows and \$1 per vehicle for morning family shows. For evening shows only, **FREE non-stacked parking serviced by a FREE shuttle to the Ford, for evening amphitheatre performances only**, is available at the Universal City Metro Station lot at Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga. The shuttle, which cycles every 15-20 minutes, stops in the “kiss and ride” area.

This event is part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2010 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. For a complete season schedule, directions to the theater and parking information, log on to www.FordTheatres.org.

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