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Celebrate Arts & Culture at the Sunday sARTée Soiree at Ringling International Arts Festival

(Sarasota, FL)- October 4, 2010- When you visit the Ringling Museum on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, the final day of the Ringling International Arts Festival (RIAF), included in your regular museum ticket price will be admission to the Festival sARTée Sunday Soiree.

This special event is a partnership between RIAF and Festival sARTée and is being held from Noon-4 p.m. in the Ringling Museum of Art's Courtyard. The afternoon will feature music, food, drinks, circus performances, and giveaways.

"We are excited to partner with the Ringling International Arts Festival," said Lynn Hobeck Bates, member of the Festival sARTée Planning Committee. "This is an excellent opportunity for the arts organizations to come together in a spirit of collaboration and celebration during what is sure to be a festive atmosphere."

The highlight of the afternoon is the debut of *Art Isn't Easy*. This musical theatrical revue is a celebration of the power and possibilities for creative collaborations. Acting, singing, dance and more come together in the beautiful courtyard setting of the esteemed John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Wonder at the beauty of movement that is Fuzion Dance Company, be swept away by the soulful, sultry voice of Sharon Scott, and enjoy costumed excerpts from *Sunday in the Park with George* presented by Manatee Players.

The program is curated by Rick Kirby, Managing Artistic Director for the Manatee Players, an award-winning theatre company annually presenting a full season of musicals, comedy, and drama in their new performing arts center in downtown Bradenton, Florida. Fuzion Dance Artists is a contemporary dance company founded by Leymis Bolanos Wilmott and Rachael Inman and the New York Times had this to say about Sharon Scott. [Scott] is a "performer of size and vocal quality that overwhelms the stage." Scott is the recipient of the Sarasota County Art Council's 2009 John Ringling Artist Fellowship.

PAL Sailor Circus, America's oldest youth circus, kick-off the day with astounding feats performed by students in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. PAL Sailor Circus has thrilled audiences around the globe for 60 years.

The day will also include *An Invitation to the Dance* with Iain Webb and the Sarasota Ballet in the West Galleries of the Museum of Art.

The schedule for the Sunday sARTée Soiree is as follows:

Noon-1:45 p.m.	Performances by PAL Sailor Circus
12:30 p.m.	<i>An Invitation to the Dance</i> , Iain Webb and Sarasota Ballet
1:45 p.m.	Giveaways
2-3 p.m.	Musical and Theatrical Performances
3:10 p.m.	Giveaways
3:30 p.m.	<i>An Invitation to the Dance</i> , Iain Webb and Sarasota Ballet
4 p.m.	Thank You and Official RIAF Closing

Food and drink provided by Treviso Restaurant will be available for purchase. Additionally, The Festival sARTée Planning Committee is working closely with RIAF to have an on-site presence during the four-day festival. Sarasota and Manatee County visitor and tourist information and information about the regions arts and cultural amenities will be shared with RIAF patrons.

For more details visit www.sartee.com or contact Lynn Hobeck Bates at 1.941.955.0991 Ext. 103. For more information on a particular event, please refer to the contact information listed below.

The Festival sARTée expands the energy and excitement of the Ringling International Arts Festival (RIAF), Sarasota-Manatee, October 13-17, 2010. For two weeks surrounding the RIAF, the Festival sARTée, Oct. 8-24, showcases the region's world-class arts and culture ranging from theater, dance, music, visual art, live music and more in a variety of venues throughout Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Festival sARTée derives its name from both Sarasota and Manatee Counties, joined by the common element of art. The counties are situated along Florida's west coast. The first Festival sARTée is organized through a partnership among the Arts Council of Manatee County, Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Realize Bradenton, Inc., Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Sarasota County Arts Council. The Ringling International Arts Festival, in its second year, is a partnership between The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida and the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City and delights in bringing together emerging artists in theater, dance and music from the around the world for a five-day festival.

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