



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2006

Contact: John Arnold

Phone: (916) 653-7090

Enjoy the Arts in California State Parks

What better place to enjoy a concert, an art exhibit or a performance than in a California State Park. You can see a musical or play on top of a mountain or in an historic building; hear poetry in a park, learn about the natural world on a beach, or take a look at paintings in a historic site.

Here are some examples:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

On Sunday, October 8 visitors can enjoy "Fiesta del Río - Celebrating the Cultures and Natural Resources of the **Tijuana River Estuary**: where nature and nations meet." The special event will take place from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Imperial Beach Pier Plaza in the City of Imperial Beach. Activities will include children's games, dancing, and entertainment, such as Dr. Zoolittle and his wonderful shows about the natural world and its creatures. Visit booths featuring San Diego's leading environmental organizations; learn a traditional *Californio* dance; listen to Native American storytellers; and hear actors tell tales of mystery and adventure. You can also visit Native handicraft booths featuring the art and pottery of contemporary Kumeyaay artisans. Don't miss the premiere of the *Sloughs* musical, performed by Mendoza Elementary School students based on Dempsey Holder and the brave early surfers of huge waves at the Tijuana River mouth. Take in the live creation of an Urban Environmental Art mural by students of renowned muralist Victor Ochoa. Finish off the day by enjoying a mariachi band from the Sweetwater Union High School District and the environmentally-conscious reggae band, Burnt. To learn more, visit www.tijuanaestuary.com or call (619) 575-3613.

Watts Towers of Simon Rodia State Park is located at 1765 East 107th Street, in Los Angeles. The towers are a complex set of 17 separate sculptural pieces built on a residential lot in the community of Watts. Two of the towers rise to a height of nearly 100 feet. The sculptures are constructed from steel pipes and rods, wrapped with wire mesh, coated with mortar, and embedded with pieces of porcelain, tile and glass. Using simple hand tools and cast off materials (broken glass, sea shells, generic pottery and ceramic tile) Italian immigrant, Simon Rodia spent 30 years (1921 to 1955) building a tribute to his adopted country and a monument to the spirit of individuals who make their dreams tangible.

The Watts Towers are one of only nine works of folk art listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is one of only four US National Historic Landmarks in the city of Los Angeles. The site is now a unit of California State Parks and managed by the Los Angeles City Cultural Affairs Department.

The Los Angeles City Cultural Affairs Department, through the Watts Towers Arts Center, provides diverse cultural enrichment programming through tours, lectures, changing exhibits and studio workshops for both teachers and school children. Each year, thousands of people are attracted to the Towers' site for the Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival and the Watt Towers Day of the Drum Festival.

Tours are by reservation only. Contact the park at (213) 847-4646. For more information, visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=613

Wildwood Canyon State Park in Yucaipa hosts the second annual Wildwood Hoedown featuring cowboy poetry on October 21. Poets come from all over the United States to participate. For more information, contact Sue Neary at (909) 797-6848.

Will Rogers State Historic Park, at 14253 Sunset Boulevard in Pacific Palisades, was the home of Will Rogers, actor, philosopher and cowboy. He was a patron of authentic American cowboy artist Charles Russell, an American master painter and one of Will Roger's closest friends. Also contained in the Will Rogers collection is one of the most comprehensive collections in the world of Western Artist Ed Borein's work. Ranch House tours feature original western art by Charles Russell, Ed Borein and several other extraordinary cowboy artists. Ranch House tours are 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. daily, Tuesday through Sunday, and accommodate up to 15 people. The Ranch House is closed Mondays. Regularly scheduled public tours do not require a reservation and are on a first-come first-served basis, but group tours of 15 or more people are by reservation only. Call (310) 454-8212 for information or reservations. See the website: www.parks.ca.gov/willrogers

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

The Fallon House located in **Columbia State Historic Park** (three miles north of Sonora off Highway 49), is home of the Sierra Repertory Theater. The group performs musicals and plays from February through December. This past year they performed ten different plays and musicals. Show times are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. Tickets can be ordered by mail, phone, online or at the theater box office. Prices range from \$14 to \$28, depending on day and time. Group rates are available. For more information, contact:

Sierra Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 3030, Sonora California 95370
209-532-3120
www.sierrarep.org

The historic Stevenson House in **Monterey State Historic Park** (downtown Monterey) is featuring the etchings of August Gay, one of the area's most admired painters and colorists. The work will be on display until December 9. For more information, please call (831) 372-2608, extension 13 or visit us online at http://www.parks.ca.gov/events/event_detail.asp?id=1637

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Mendocino Headlands State Park, surrounding the town of Mendocino, hosts the annual July Mendocino Music Festival. For 20 years, the festival has featured the best in classical and contemporary music in the area's beautiful natural setting. For more information, call the festival at (707) 937-2044 or visit the website at www.mendocinomusic.com

Mount Tamalpais State Park, just north of San Francisco's Golden Gate, offers a spectacular outdoor theatrical experience once a year in the Cushing Memorial Amphitheater. The 2006 show was "Fiddler on the Roof," which attracted 16,954 people for five performances in May and June. Auditions begin in January for next year's performance, "Hair." Be sure to check the Mountain Play Association Web site for dates and times at <http://www.mountainplay.org>

Shasta State Historic Park, six miles west of Redding on Highway 299, features "Beneath an Autumn Moon," an evening tour of the park's historical cemetery on Friday, October, 6th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$2 per person and reservations are required due to limited space. For more information, call Lori Martin at (530) 243-8194. The tour includes historical biographical information, as well as an explanation of the beautiful and artistic designs and symbols on the headstones. Shasta State Historic Park, six miles West of Redding on Highway 299, is also home to a fine collection of early (1850-1950) California paintings that are on permanent display.

Visit California State Parks on line at www.parks.ca.gov

#