

For Immediate Release

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**BARYSHNIKOV ARTS CENTER TO PRESENT A FESTIVAL
OF CATALAN CULTURE, MARCH 23-31**

**Featuring Poetry Recitals with Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed & Patti
Smith and Barcelona's Most Celebrated Choreographers and Musicians**

New York, NY, February 15, 2007—The Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC) is pleased to present *Made in CataluNYa, Catalan Culture in New York*, a festival organized by the Barcelona-based Institut Ramon Llull and featuring some of today's most innovative and celebrated Catalan artists in dance, theater, music and poetry (March 23 -31, 2007). The festivities at BAC will begin with two extraordinary nights of poetry recitals by Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed and Patti Smith who will give their voices to some of the best Catalan poets of the 20th century. The festival will also showcase two of Barcelona's most accomplished dance companies, Sol Picó and Gelabert Azzopardi; experimental jazz pianist Agustí Fernández; improvisational group Estramp Jaç; and a hybrid evening of poetry, theater, music and dance by playwright Pep Tosar and dance company Raravis, Andrés Corchero-Rosa Muñoz.

Made in CataluNYa, Catalan Culture in New York is presented in conjunction with the exhibition, *Barcelona and Modernity: Gaudí to Dalí* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (March 7- June 3) and will also feature a concert of Catalan music by one of the world's foremost choral ensembles, Voices of Ascension (Church of the Ascension on March 22) as well as four chamber and world music concerts at The Metropolitan Museum (April 1, May 4, 9 & 10).

The Catalan festivities at BAC will begin with downtown luminaries Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed and Patti Smith bringing to the American spotlight some of Catalonia's

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greatest poetry (March 23 and 24). In a rare opportunity to experience the work of these 20th century poets, they will read a judicious selection from Perejaume, Gimferrer, Blai Bonet, Joan Brossa, Maria Mercè Marçal, Maria Antònia Salvà, Narcís Comadira, Joan Margarit, Josep Palau i Fabre, Gabriel Ferrater, and Josep Carner, among many others.

Representing today's rich and vibrant Catalan dance scene, the festival will feature two of this country's most celebrated dance companies. Sol Picó will perform her award-winning piece, *Kiss me the cactus*, which stages powerful images of fear in a dynamic and humorous way (March 26). Trained in both classical and modern dance, Picó brings provocative intensity to her work, mixing movement with dramatic expression and dialogue. On March 31, Cesc Gelabert from the Gelabert Azzopardi Dance Company will perform a solo piece, *Glimpse*, in collaboration with renowned video artist Charles Atlas. In *Glimpse*, Gelabert establishes a constant dialogue with a video monitor that mirrors the interior images of the dancer--his body, feelings, emotions, space, time, and thoughts--creating a window through which the audience can see into the artist's inner being. Recognized with the Critic's Award at Edinburgh's International Festival, *Glimpse* has been praised as a "radical, intelligent, but above all hugely enjoyable cavalcade of insights" (The Herald).

Music events for Made in CataluNYa will include a rare appearance by pianist Agustí Fernández, one of the most important explorers of avant garde music in Spain (March 27). Considered a pioneer in the field of free jazz improvisation, Fernández will perform one of his signature works, *Extended Piano*, which fuses contemporary classical piano with jazz to create a unique and powerful style. He has recorded twelve albums and has toured the world collaborating with Tom Cora, Evan Parker, and Butch Morris, among many others. Also prominent in the field of improvisation as well as fusion music, the six members of Estramp Jaç will perform a new work merging jazz with traditional Catalan and Mediterranean music (March 30). Experimenting with styles and genres, Estramp Jaç has been particularly successful at opening up traditional folklore music to new trends.

Poetic Bodies, a performance that encompasses poetry, theatre, dance and music will be presented in two parts on March 29. Conceived, directed and performed by Pep Tosar, one of Majorca's leading stage artists, Part One titled *The little house under construction*, is a theatrical work based on the life and work of Blai Bonet, a major Mallorcan poet and novelist whose life was marked by illness and an anxious search for God. In Part Two titled *Systole, diastole*, Raravis, one of Catalonia's most exciting dance companies, presents a new piece inspired by the work of poets Feliu Formosa and Eduard Escoffet. Combining literature and music with a choreographic style defined by simplicity and sincerity, the piece is one of the company's trademarks and will feature pianist Agustí Fernández as well as Escoffet reading his own work on stage.

All performances begin at 8:30pm. Admission is free for all performances at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Reservations are required. Seating is limited. Phone Ticket Central Box Office at 212-279-4200. On-line: www.ticketcentral.com The Baryshnikov Arts Center is located at 450 W. 37th Street. For further information, visit www.baryshnikovdancefoundation.org

Founded in Barcelona in 2002, the Institut Ramon Llull is a consortium dedicated to the promotion of Catalan language and culture beyond the borders of Spain. Based in Barcelona, it promotes the internationalization of outstanding artistic work, the translations into other languages and the organization of meetings, seminars and exchange programs and other activities towards the advancement of the Catalan academic, intellectual and scientific community abroad. Part of the romance group of languages, Catalan is the seventh most-spoken language in the European Union.

Incorporated in 1979, the mission of the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation (BDF) is to foster an interest in the arts; to encourage the development of performers, choreographers, directors, writers, composers and designers; and to advance their collaboration. In November 2005, the Foundation opened the Baryshnikov Arts Center,

located in the new performing arts complex 37 ARTS. The Center serves as a creative laboratory, meeting place and performing space for a vibrant community of artists from around the world. Programs include student fellowships, artist residencies, and commissions of new works. *For more information, please visit www.baryshnikovdancefoundation.org.*

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