



**WACO THEATER CENTER TO HOLD 2ND ANNUAL WEARABLE ART GALA
HONOREES INCLUDE BEYONCÉ KNOWLES-CARTER AND GLORIA
CARTER, MOTHER OF JAY-Z**

LOS ANGELES, (February 20, 2018) /PRNewswire/ WACO Theater is set to host the Second Annual Wearable Art Gala. Led by Tina Knowles Lawson and Richard Lawson, the event will celebrate art and raise funds to benefit the newly opened non-profit art and performance complex **WACO Theatre Center** in Los Angeles on **Saturday, March 17th**.

The Wearable Art Gala will celebrate fine art and raise a toast to African American artists whose provocative and inspiring pieces will be auctioned to raise money for teen mentorship programs, Tina's Angels and Richard's Warriors as well as WACO's Mobile Arts Theater. The Wearable Art Gala is the signature event of WACO Theater Center, founded and built by Tina Knowles Lawson, a fashion designer, art collector and philanthropist, and her husband, actor, director and master acting teacher, Richard Lawson. Solange Knowles, Bianca Lawson, Kelly Rowland and La La Anthony will serve as Honorary Chairpersons for the second annual Gala. The **Wearable Art Gala** is presented by **SheaMoisture** and sponsored by **Morgan Stanley, Live Nation, PRG, LYFT, Nissan and the Horowitz Family Foundation. ESSENCE Magazine** returns as media sponsor for the Wearable Art Gala.

"We are truly excited to host the second annual Wearable Art Gala to celebrate art, culture and humanity," Tina Knowles Lawson says. "We are in a beautiful moment when black art is challenging societal norms, transforming fashion and truly being appreciated on a large scale," Knowles Lawson adds. Last fall the Lawsons opened the doors on a state of the art facility in Los Angeles which houses Richard Lawson Studios and produces productions throughout the year. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to provide a creative center where art can truly to occur, and provide professional and non-professional actors, artists

and youth a place to celebrate their own talent and artistry," says Richard Lawson.

Beyoncé Knowles-Carter will be honored with WACO Theater Center's first Humanitarian Award for providing support to numerous global relief efforts and humanitarian causes including Hand in Hand Hurricane Relief, CHIME FOR CHANGE and Formation Scholars among many others. Knowles-Carter's philanthropic initiatives are channeled through, BeyGOOD, the organization she founded in 2013. In 2017, BEYGOOD4BURUNDI partnered with UNICEF to bring clean, safe water to the most vulnerable women and children in Burundi, East Africa.

WACO Theater will also pay tribute to Gloria Carter, mother of Shawn Carter (Jay-Z), who will be the Gala's inaugural recipient of the *Everyday People Award*. Ms. Carter co-founded the Shawn Carter Foundation with the mission of helping individuals who face socio-economic hardships to further their education at post-secondary institutions. Since 2003, the Shawn Carter Foundation has raised over \$4 million for initiatives promoting youth empowerment and communities in need. The foundation hosts an annual college and university tour, offers a scholarship fund, study abroad experiences and counseling initiatives.

Mr. Carter will present the award to his mother and says, "She's changed people's lives through education and just being a part of the community and touching it. My mom, like her mother before her, believes in community. She believes in people - and bringing them together. This belief was instilled in me."

Actor and comedian Lil Rel Howery from the Academy Award nominated film **GET OUT** will serve as the Gala's master of ceremonies. Television personality, fashion designer, author, and women's and diversity advocate, Star Jones returns as the Gala's celebrity auctioneer.

In 2017, WACO staged its inaugural Wearable Art Gala with Presenting Sponsor, SheaMoisture, helping to raise over \$1 million in funds for outreach efforts to support art initiatives and mentorship programs in Los Angeles. The sold out event was attended by Magic Johnson, Octavia Spencer, Kris Jenner, Arianna Huffington, Samuel L. Jackson, Angela Bassett, Yara Shahidi, Michelle Williams as well as art patron Felicia Horowitz, and head of the Ford Foundation, Darren Walker.

The Lawsons' Louisiana Creole ancestry will be heavily reflected in the Gala's festivities – from cuisine to entertainment such as a live Zydeco brass band and several art installations throughout the evening.

A Silent and Live Auction will be held at the Gala. Works by New York based visual artist Kehinde Wiley, whose painting of President Obama was recently revealed at the Smithsonian Institute, will be available for auction. Additional

artists include Lauren Halsey, Sadie Barnette, Bethany Collins, Alonzo Adams, Genevieve Gaignard, Samuel Levi Jones, Robert Pruitt, Eduardo Sarabia and designers such as Radcliffe Bailey, Cynthia Bach and Lorraine Schwartz who is donating a pair of earrings worn by Beyoncé at this year's recent Grammys festivities.

ABOUT WACO THEATER CENTER

WACO Theater Center is dedicated to the empowerment of artists within a diversified pool of LA communities. The mission is to create a space **Where Art Can Occur** and where students are taught to develop their true purpose and awaken their individual power source which fuels their art. For more information on programs, classes and upcoming events, visit www.WACOTheaterCenter.com and follow @WacoTheater on Instagram and Facebook, @waco_theater on Twitter.

TICKET DONATIONS

\$1,000 tickets and a limited number of \$500 tickets are on sale. WACO Theater Center is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations will be applied to Tina's Angels, Richard's Warriors and the Mobile Theater program. For tickets, visit <https://wacothatercenter.com/2018-wearable-art-gala-official/>.

PRESS INQUIRIES

Press and media, please apply for event credentials here: <http://wacothatercenter.com/press-form/>

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