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Ring in the New Year with Spectacular Entertainment from Broadway to Comedy at Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

AVENTURA – The New Year at Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is filled with spectacular entertainment including young Broadway stars; side-splitting comedy; a musical array of rock and roll, classical, Latin and cabaret; dramatic foreign film; and children’s theater.

Start the New Year off on **Saturday, January 2 at 8 p.m. with *Radio: Sounds of the 70’s***, a musical trip down memory lane filled with unforgettable songs from the 70s, including “Dancing Queen,” “Nobody Does It Better,” “Proud Mary,” “Midnight Train to Georgia,” “Let It Be,” “I Will Survive” and more, that will have the audience singing and dancing in the aisles. Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

Next, ***I’ve Got a Little Twist: Gilbert & Sullivan with a Twist of Broadway*** on **Thursday, January 7 at 8 p.m.** has been billed as “*The Mikado* meets *The Music Man*,” a one-of-a-kind cabaret show that celebrates the legacy of Gilbert & Sullivan in American musical theater, featuring favorites from Rodgers & Hammerstein, Bernstein, Sondheim, Lerner & Loewe, Meredith Wilson and Jerry Herman, as performed by the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

The 2016 Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Broadway Concert Series kicks off on **Sunday, January 10 at 7 p.m. with Norm Lewis**, nominated for a Tony for his portrayal of Porgy in Broadway’s *Porgy and Bess*, and who made history as the first African American phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway (last performance February 7, 2015). Fans also will recognize Lewis from hit TV series including NBC’s *The Blacklist*, CBS’s *Blue Bloods* and in his recurring role as Senator Edison Davis on ABC’s *Scandal*. Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

The Iranian psychological drama ***About Elly*** on **Tuesday, January 12 at 7 p.m.** is the fourth film by award-winning director Asghar Farhadi and is centered around a group of old college friends who reunite for a weekend by the Caspian Sea. The hope is that Elly, who teaches one couple’s daughter and accompanies them on the trip, will hit it off with

newly divorced Ahmad, who is searching for an Iranian bride. Compounding lies and deception soon plunge everyone into a complex mystery when Elly goes missing. Presented as part of the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Foreign Film Series, Shelly Isaacs will introduce the film and lead a post-screening discussion. Presented in Persian and German with English subtitles, tickets are \$11.

Jim Witter's Still Rock N' Roll To Me on **Saturday, January 16 at 8 p.m.** will whisk the audience away on a heartwarming journey through the 80s. Filled with moments that made us laugh and cry, it's a musical tapestry featuring the most unforgettable hits of music icons Billy Joel and Sir Elton John that also celebrates the toys, television, and trivia of the decade. Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

Audience members will bawk-bawk-ba-gwak during ***Chicken Dance*** on **Sunday, January 17 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.**, ArtsPower National Touring Theatre's newest musical based on the book by best-selling author Tami Sauer. This giddy musical follows Marge and Lola as they pluck up their courage to try and outperform a flock of very talented ducks in the barnyard talent contest to garner coveted tickets to the Elvis Poultry Show. Presented as part of the Family Fun Series, both performances provide the ultimate family theater-going experience with free pre-show face painting and art activities provided by Young At Art Museum and complimentary post-show snacks. The Family Fun Series at Aventura is presented by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$16 for individual seats in advance and \$18 the day of the show, with \$3 lap seats for infants 12 months or younger.

The second performance of the **Miami International Piano Festival Series, "Four Classical Sundays at Five"** on **Sunday, January 17 at 5 p.m.** features Israeli pianist **Amir Katz**, who has performed in the most distinguished halls in Europe, Asia and North America including the Rudolfinum, Prague; Philharmonie, Berlin; and Lincoln Center, New York City. He has appeared with many of the world's great orchestras and his concerts regularly are recorded for radio and television. He also has recorded CDs for the Live Classics, Oehms Classics, Cavi-music and Sony Classical labels. Tom Presich from *Rondo Magazine* wrote, "He is authentic and captivating with virtuosity and freshness." Tickets are \$30.

Jarrold Spector, the 2014 Tony nominee for *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, takes to the stage on **Wednesday, January 20 at 8 p.m.** for the second performance in the **2016 Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Broadway Concert Series**. His solo concert, *Minor Fall, Major Lift* features some of the most recognizable songs from the 60s to present day, including "Splish Splash," "Even Now," "Hallelujah" and "Misery," with a little Led Zeplin and Bon Jovi thrown in. Spector's other Broadway credits include *Jersey Boys* and *Les Miserables*. Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

Argentinian creator and director Louis Bravo brings his world-wide hit ***Forever Tango in Concert*** to Aventura on **Friday, January 22 at 8 p.m.** Celebrated as a sizzling and steamy theatrical staging of brilliant orchestrations paired with two glamorous and elegant dancers, *The New York Times* called it, "A must see," while the *Los Angeles Times* raved, "intoxicating, superbly theatrical." Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

The 2015-16 Aventura Comedy Series, presented by Singer Productions and Entertainment, continues with ***Three Hysterical Broads Off Their Medication*** on **Saturday, January 23 at 8 p.m.**, a stand-up show that gives an inside look at the comedic minds of Valarie Storm, Traci Kanaan and Sheba Mason. Their biting observational humor about coping with their kids, relationships and life leaves audiences thinking, laughing and relating long after the show is over. Tickets are \$34.50 and \$39.50.

Back by popular demand, Jake Ehrenreich brings his hit musical comedy ***A Jew Grows in Brooklyn*** to Aventura on **Sunday, January 24 at 3 and 7 p.m. and Monday, January 25 and Tuesday, January 26 at 8 p.m.** Delving into his struggles with family, Ehrenreich takes the audience on a hilarious romp from the streets of Brooklyn to summers in the Catskills. The *New York Times* describes Ehrenreich's staged life story as "touching and funny – a lot like Billy Crystal's *700 Sundays*." Presented by Door To Door Generations LLC and Arnold Unger Foundation for Remembrance, Inc., tickets are \$45 & \$55 with VIP tickets for \$75.

More celebrated humor ignites the stage when **The Second City** returns to Aventura with the all-new show ***Hooking Up with The Second City*** for two nights, **Wednesday, January 27 and Thursday, January 28 at 8 p.m.**, featuring side-splitting comedy, hilarious sketches and songs about love and relationships from members of Chicago's world-famous and legendary improv troupe. The Second City boasts more than 50 years of producing cutting-edge satirical revues and continues to launch the careers of comedy superstars, such as Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray and more. Tickets are \$39.

Noted singers/performers Johnny Rodgers and Lee Lessack take the stage for ***Live in Central Park (Revisited): Simon & Garfunkel Tribute*** on **Friday, January 29 at 8 p.m.** to deliver the full concert set the famous duo performed during their 1981 reunion concert in Central Park, including fan favorites such as "Homeward Bound," "Mrs. Robinson" and "Bridge over Troubled Water." *Billboard Magazine* called Lessack's baritone vocals "cabaret romanticism of a high order," while Stephen Holden from *The New York Times* described Rodgers as an entertainer "who has show business in his bones." Tickets are \$40 and \$45.

The women of South Florida-based **Brazilian Voices** will perform on **Saturday, January 30 at 8 p.m.**, delivering a concert of musical excellence in jazz, bossa nova, samba and pop styles, including serenely innovative renditions of bossa nova classics such as Jobim's "Wave" and "Dindi." Brazilian Voices has been the 10-time winner of the Brazilian International Press Award for Outstanding Brazilian Musical Group, released seven CDs and performed around the world in Barcelona, Madrid, Mexico, New York and London. Tickets are \$35 and \$40.

Culminating January at Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is ***Cabaret Follies by Erika Moon*** during two performances on **Sunday, January 31 at 2 and 7 p.m.** The show brings to the stage the glamour, seduction, comedy, dance and vocal performances for which Moon is famous – as more than a dozen artists, including Las Vegas-style showgirls, perform traditional burlesque and other variety acts. Tickets are \$37.50 and \$47.50.

Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Aventura Arts & Cultural Center and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at aventuracenter.org; by phone at 877-311-7469; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center box office Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to each performance. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers. For Group Sales, please call 954-660-6307.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts manages the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, a 14,864-square-foot, 330-seat waterfront complex that hosts performing arts, cultural and educational programming for all ages. The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is located at 3385 N.E. 188 Street in Aventura. Join the conversation on Twitter at #aventuracenter.

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