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FIRST NIGHT BOSTON 2010 ANNOUNCES EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, WGBH 89.7's live national radio broadcast "Toast of the Nation" with Anat Cohen, Kaiju Big Battel, The Neats, Tony V, Kristin Hersh, Bollywood, fireworks, ice sculptures, the FedEx Family Festival, *Metro Boston* Grand Procession, WBZ-TV Countdown and more

Complete program guide can be downloaded from

http://www.firstnight.org/Resources/Pdf/First_Night_Program_Guide_2009.pdf

Image of First Night 2010 button can be downloaded from

<http://www.firstnight.org/Resources/Documents/First%20Night%20Button%202010.jpg>

(BOSTON – Nov. 13, 2009) First Night Boston is the country's oldest and largest New Year's arts celebration. On Dec. 31, 2009 from 1 p.m. to midnight, First Night presents a day-long festival of art, music, dance, ice sculpture, fireworks and more. First Night is an alcohol-free event that welcomes revelers of all ages to celebrate community and unity through the arts. First Night 2010 will feature over 1000 artists in 200 exhibitions and performances in over 35 locations in Boston. Listed below are **some** of the highlights of this year's festival. A complete schedule, including times and exact locations can be found at www.firstnight.org.

Kaiju Big Battel – Hynes Convention Center

The world's only live monster wrestling spectacle performs parodies of both professional wrestling and Japanese monster movies, with a dash of Mexican wrestling thrown in. "Battels" are presented in the style of pro wrestling matches, with costumed performers playing giant monsters like Godzilla and Gamera.

Anat Cohen – Berklee Performance Center

First Night partners with Berklee College of Music and WGBH 89.7 FM to present a special show with Berklee alumni **Anat Cohen**, to be broadcast live in Boston on 89.7 and across the country as part of NPR's annual New Year's Eve broadcast "Toast of the Nation." Idiomatically conversant with modern and traditional jazz, classical music, Brazilian choro, Argentine tango, and an expansive timeline of Afro-Cuban styles, Tel Aviv-born Cohen has established herself as one of the primary voices of her generation on both the tenor saxophone and clarinet.

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company – St. Paul's Cathedral

From the people who bring Free Shakespeare to Boston Common: **A Shakespearean Cabaret!** Shakespeare has inspired countless composers - Verdi, Rossini, Benjamin Britten, Cole Porter, Rogers and Hart, and Bernstein, to name a few. In collaboration with New England Conservatory, CSC will present a collection of funny, beautiful, touching modern and classic songs from and inspired by Shakespeare.

Boston bands – various locations

First Night has an amazing array of bands from and with ties to the legendary rock scene in Boston, representing a span of about 30 years! **The Neats** reunite in support of the recent reissue of almost their early recordings on *Neats 1981-84*, and play at the Orpheum along with **Buffalo Tom** and **The Lyres** (sponsored by The River). The Parkman Bandstand

features **Jordan Valentine and the Sunday Saints**, with **The Fatal Flaw**. **Jenny Dee and the Deelinquents** bring their girl group sound to The Park Plaza. **The Painted Lights**, **Walter Sickert and the Army of Broken Toys** and **Cirkestra** play at the Hynes, and Emmanuel Church features a triple bill of **Drew O'Doherty**, **Kristin Hersh** and **Chris Brokaw and Geoff Farina** performing pre-WWII country blues.

Andre Ward – Hynes Convention Center

Take a seasoned musician who can play the soprano, alto and tenor saxophone with skilled ease and passion and mix in varied elements of gospel, jazz, R & B and you have Boston's own Chicago-born, Berklee trained **Andre Ward**. An accomplished purveyor of smooth jazz, Ward was the musical director for Freddie Jackson and has toured with Teena Marie, Will Downing, The Bobby Jones Gospel Group, The Four Tops, The O'Jays and Dizzy Gillespie.

Fernando Otero – First Church in Boston

Argentine composer and pianist **Fernando Otero** found his voice as writer, musician and bandleader when he began to incorporate the indigenous sounds of his native Buenos Aires into his work. Twenty years have passed since Otero opened his ears to this wealth of ideas, and ever since he has pursued his vision of X Tango. On his Nonesuch debut *Pagina de Buenos Aires* he evokes a feeling of Buenos Aires through his innovative use of the bandoneon, the accordion-like instrument at the heart of all tango.

Bombay Cinema – Hynes Convention Center

Boston's own Bombay Cinema programs 10 hours of the best of Bollywood film for First Night. Visit www.firstnight.org for titles and times.

The FedEx Family Festival at the Hynes Convention Center

The Family Festival features entertainment and activities for all members of the family. In addition to face painting and crafts workshops, there will be puppet shows, music, comedians, jugglers, stunts and more. Don't miss **ImprovBoston Kids Comedy**, geared toward kids 8 - 12, or original songs from well-known Boston folkie **Ellis Paul** and **The Guthrie Family Show**, featuring the descendants and legacy of Woodie Guthrie. **The Downside Up Circus** combines a shared love of circus arts with a commitment to social change to come up with a show that's fun for the whole family. Local rockers **Cul de Sac** will provide live music to films geared toward kids. Neighborhood children also perform, with **First Night Drum Central**, and **Chu Ling Dance Academy's** traditional and contemporary Chinese dance. Sponsored by FedEx, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, and *The Boston Parents Paper*.

In addition to these and other great events, First Night will also feature Japanese Anime; films of the Roxbury Film Festival; five ice sculptures; **The Metro Boston First Night Grand Procession**; the **Boston Family Fireworks** presented by Mayor Menino and The Mugar Foundation; the traditional midnight fireworks over Boston Harbor sponsored by Cape Dairy; and a midnight countdown with **WBZ-TV's Jack Williams and Lisa Hughes** at Copley Square. For a complete listing, visit www.firstnight.org.

All First Night outdoor events are free, though supported by sales of the First Night button (artwork by Eku Holmes), which is the ticket for admission to all indoor events. Buttons are \$18 (children under 4 admitted free) and will be available beginning Nov. 27 at Boston-area Shaw's and Star Markets, Tedeschi's, Store 24, Au Bon Pain and dozens of other locations. For a complete list of advance sale locations or to buy buttons online, visit www.firstnight.org. Buttons are available at a special web price of \$15 at www.firstnight.org through Dec. 26. For more information, visit www.firstnight.org.

First Night, Inc. is a private, 501©3 non-profit organization. It is supported by public and private contributions, sponsorships, and through the admission sales of the First Night button. First Night Boston is grateful for the support of its major contributors: The City of Boston, Thomas M. Menino, Mayor; WBZ-

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