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CONTACT:

Shannon McSweeney-LeMay, Public Relations Manager
845.295-2420 / smcsweeney@bethelwoodscenter.org

Over 300 Local Children Experience the Arts with Terrance Simien and The Zydeco Experience at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

(July 24, 2008) BETHEL, NY –Bethel Woods Center for the Arts' youth education program, Experience the Arts, presented a free encore performance by Grammy-Award winners, Terrance Simien and The Zydeco Experience.

Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience, one of Louisiana's most respected Creole cultural ambassadors, presented their lively and informative "Creole for Kids and The History of Zydeco". Children aged 6 and up from local community groups, schools and camps attended today's free educational performance. Attendees included children from **Winston Day Camp, Sullivan West Central School / Callicoon Youth Group, Monticello Housing Authority, Fallsburg Central School, Orange County Youth Leadership Academy / Orange County Youth Bureau, Town of Bethel Youth Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension 4H** and **Girl Scout Troop #401** and **Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center / Sullivan County B.O.C.E.S.**

Simien thrilled his young fans who participated in call and answer songs, and even joined the band on stage to play the frottoir, a metal rubboard that's worn like a vest and is an updated version of an old-fashioned washboard, which has been used in creole music for centuries.

Simien raises the standard for his genre by establishing himself as a formidable songwriter and astonishing singer, evoking comparisons to Sam Cooke and Aaron Neville, while also increasing awareness of Creole culture with a collection of original songs for family listening. His eclectic fusion of Zydeco brought the kids on a multicultural musical tour of the world. Incorporating diverse music styles he created a hypnotic blend of Zydeco-roots- New Orleans funk-reggae flavored- Afro-Caribbean-world music that had the kids dancing, cheering and learning a little bit of French. Simien expresses himself as a relevant and evolving artist who remains reverent to his roots and musical legacy.

In 2006, Carnegie Hall sent him and this band to Mali, West Africa to present "Creole for Kidz & The History of Zydeco" as part of a unique distance learning program entitled Global Encounters. He is currently working on a non-fiction book for students about Creole culture and zydeco music.

Up next, on August 22 beginning at 2:30pm at the Pavilion Festival Plaza – **Youth at Pops** will feature a tour and workshop, followed by a performance by two groups of local student musicians from the **Liberty High School Band** and the **Goshen Youth Band** prior to the evening appearance by the Boston Pops. The program will include a multi-faceted lecture, demonstration and discussion about their music, origins, touring and recording. Generous support is again provided by the Suehnholz Family for this year's program.

If you are interested in your school or organization being a part of Bethel Woods Center for the Arts' future youth education programs, please contact Elaine Muscara at 845-295-2446 or emuscara@BethelWoodsCenter.org.

ABOUT BETHEL WOODS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The mission of Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is to present compelling programs from the arts that educate, entertain and engage audiences of all ages, to institute community outreach and education and improve the quality of life and vitality of the Sullivan County region. Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is located approximately 90 minutes from New York City at the site of the original 1969 Woodstock Festival in Bethel, NY. The 15,000-seat outdoor performing arts venue and the soon-to-be-opened Museum at Bethel Woods are set within 2,000 bucolic acres. The main pavilion covers 4,500 seats with another 10,500 on a natural sloping lawn while offering unique backdrops including the original festival site and the majesty of the surrounding Sullivan County countryside. The venue presents a diverse selection of popular artists, a range of orchestral performances, community events and music and arts educational opportunities. By providing artists with the opportunity to perform on one of music's most legendary grounds, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is committed to being a world-class cultural destination. In addition, The Museum at Bethel Woods will further embed this arts campus as one of the premier sites in New York State. www.bethelwoodscenter.org