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## **TASMANIAN FOLK KICKS OFF BETHEL WOODS CENTER FOR THE ARTS NEW HERITAGE CELEBRATION SERIES ON SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**(September 9, 2009) BETHEL, N.Y.** – The not-for-profit Bethel Woods Center for the Arts will present a four-part **Heritage Celebration Series** which will explore and pay tribute to different cultures and traditions through music, dance and other cultural and performing arts.

The first performance of the series on Sunday, September 27 will feature **The Craggs**, a five-piece band from Tasmania playing acoustic folk music with a contemporary sound. Their performance also includes a video/slide show of Tasmania's landscape and wildlife. Performances are scheduled from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Additionally there will be a Tasmanian-themed children's art workshop offered. The Heritage Celebration Series will be held in The Museum Event Gallery and are open to the public at no charge.

"Through the Heritage Celebration Series Bethel Woods will provide our community with the unique opportunity to connect with and learn more about a variety of cultures, while fostering a sense of pride among those who hail from these diverse corners of the world," said Elaine Muscara, Community Outreach Coordinator.

The Craggs have built a solid following for their original and contemporary acoustic folk style, with music infused with gentle, driving rhythms and rich instrumental harmonies. The songs are inspired by the Tasmanian landscape and its culture as well as from journeys overseas. A Craggs performance is a rich tapestry of music, stories of the wilderness and its characters backed by a stunning display of wilderness images.

Margaret Hughes, Museum Education Manager explained, "The Heritage Celebration Series is a way to promote the messages in the museum by highlighting the legacies of the 1960s. The decade saw a tremendous rise in people's pride in their cultural identity, and we want to highlight the celebration of diversity arising from that trend. This series is a way to showcase different cultures through music and performance, a great way to connect The Museum with the performing arts."

Also, on September 27<sup>th</sup> the Bethel Woods' **Harvest Festival** presents the **Mountain Music Festival**, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., a celebration of the music that originated in small towns and mountain villages across America, and became known as bluegrass, old time and country music. Guitars, banjos, mandolins and sweet harmonies are all part of this rich and ever changing tradition of American music.

Workshops include:

Old time Banjo workshop with Bob Bell  
Kid's guitar workshop with Larry Kitzmiller  
Bluegrass guitar workshop with Larry Mandon  
Harmony Signing workshop with Anne Loeb

Music by:  
Jesse Kitzmiller  
Anne Loeb and Mike Baglione  
Two Steps Back  
North Country  
Mike Burns Band

Performance by: D.R.E.A.M. Tank Tub Band  
Book signing by: Rilla Askew

Combined this day offers a dynamic portrait of the traditional music of two diverse cultures, and a fantastic opportunity for music lovers to enjoy an eclectic mix of performances throughout the day. Shuttles are available between The Museum and Harvest Festival so guests can take advantage of all that Bethel Woods has to offer.

Admission for both events is free, but general admission seating in the Event Gallery is limited to 350 so advance tickets are strongly recommended for The Craggs (Limit 4 tickets per person). Click here <http://www.bethelwoodscenter.org/openevents/craggs> to print tickets at no charge using TicketFast print-at-home service, or pick yours up at the Bethel Woods Box Office. Community and school groups are also welcome and can obtain tickets by contacting Elaine Muscara, Community Outreach Coordinator at 845-295-2446, or Margaret Hughes, Museum Education Manager at 845-583-2097. Ticketholders must be seated five minutes prior to start time or forfeit admission. Admission to Museum exhibits is NOT included with Heritage Celebration Series tickets. Admission to the Harvest Festival is free and parking is \$2.00 per car.

**About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and The Museum at Bethel Woods:**

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit performing arts center and museum set within 2,000 bucolic acres in Sullivan County, at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock festival. This world-class cultural destination is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Sullivan County and the surrounding region by promoting economic development and interest in the region through arts, education and culture. It features a Pavilion Stage with 4,500 seats under cover and another 10,500 on a natural sloping lawn; The Museum at Bethel Woods, and a 350-seat Event Gallery, all of which present a diverse selection of popular artists, orchestral performances, community events, music and arts education opportunities.

The Museum is dedicated to the study and exhibition of the social, political and cultural events of the 1960s, including the Woodstock festival, and the legacies of those times. Special exhibits are rotated throughout the season to provide additional insight into the decade. The Museum Shop features a great selection of Sixties and Woodstock-inspired gift items; The Shop is open during museum hours, and online shopping is available all year at [ShopBethelWoods.com](http://ShopBethelWoods.com). Generous support for The Museum at Bethel Woods is provided by The Chapin Estate.

For more information on Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and The Museum at Bethel Woods, please visit [www.BethelWoodsCenter.org](http://www.BethelWoodsCenter.org). Follow the Center and The Museum on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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