



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 20, 2011

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## **175 Unique ARTS CRUSH Events. 90 Featured Events Spotlight Collaboration, Community, Artistic Innovation.**

***31 Days of Free Events, Over 100 Participating Arts Organizations, More Than 3000 Free Tickets Up for Grabs.***

**Seattle, WA** –Artists and arts groups have stepped it up for this second annual **ARTS CRUSH** festival with 175 unique CRUSH events. 90 of these are featured events developed to reawaken the senses by engaging people through community, collaboration and innovation. These once-in-a-lifetime, never-to-be-repeated arts events blow the lid off your standard gallery show, theatre performance or dance recital. Featured events are completely FREE. Over 100 organizations are participating in ARTS CRUSH throughout the month and the 50 different Free Night performances or events will make more than 3000 free tickets available to anyone who registers online.

Details and “insider tips” on how to make the most of Arts Crush Month are available from the 60+ organizations represented at the **Kick-Off Fair** on **September 25, 2011** at **McCaw Hall**. The Kick-Off Fair runs from **11am – 2pm** and performances by **Titanium Sporkestra** (10:45) **Caspar Baby pants** (12pm) **Massive Monkees** (1pm) and **UMO Ensemble** (continuously from 11-2) will keep families thoroughly entertained.

The **Enter-to-Win Registration** period for **Free Tickets** is going on now through **September 29<sup>th</sup>** at <http://freenight.artscrush.org/>. A complete list of all Date Night, Free Night, Kid Crush and Featured Events are listed online at <http://artscrush.org/>. Here’s just a taste.

### **Arts CRUSH Engaging Community:**

“Tell Your Story” Writing Exhibition Oct 9, 4:30pm. Village Theater – a celebration of the new musical TAKE ME AMERICA. Submit your story (before Sept 30) of how your family came to be in the United States and then enjoy the presentation of submitted works with guest speakers, and more.

Write Here, Write Now Oct. 15; 8:00 am – 5pm. Seattle7Writers, 3515 South Alaska Street - 10 Arts Crush scholarships to cover 100% of tuition are available by registering online before Sept. 25 (reg. workshop fee \$117). It’s a fun, fast-moving intensive day of writing, instruction, tips, encouragement, tough love and camaraderie with a friendly army of Northwest published authors including Garth Stein, Jennie Shortridge, Erik Larson, Laurie Frankel, Robert Dugoni, Erica Bauermeister, and more.

As Boundless as the Green Earth Oct 24, 5:00pm. 5740 Martin Luther King Way So. - Art, theatre, literature and community converge in this exploration of Filipino American culture including a solo art exhibit by Romson Bustillo, a theatre performance based on the life of author Carlos Bulosan and a panel discussion on Filipino writers in the Puget Sound region.

### **Arts CRUSH Fostering Collaboration:**

Sight and Sound BREW Oct 8, 5:00pm. Gallery 101 - a multi-disciplinary performance based on 2 exhibitions. The collaborative experiment will result in new poetry and performance that layers dialogue and interpretation of digital and photographic works by Ray Schutte and Jan Cook.

The Conversation Oct. 21. 6:00pm. Mt. Baker Community Club - photographer Michael Hipple and artist Allison Kline create their own version of the telephone game with art pieces acting as conduits for speech. Seattle synth-pop band Jupe Jupe and Sixth Day Dance join in.

Lit Twice/Luminado dos veces Oct 12. 5:30 pm. Bellevue Art Museum. This special reading addresses new literary interpretations on unique adornment objects created by Latin American artists from the BAM exhibition Think Twice: New Latin American Jewelry. Music by the Miho & Diego Duo.

### **Arts Crush Encouraging Innovation:**

Inside the Music,in a box, with a flashlight Oct. 3-8. 12-8pm. Benaroya Hall. B.Y.O.F. (flashlight) for free admission. Enter Ann Cummings 8'x8'x8' interactive installation where she examines the emotional relationships of doubt and forgiveness based upon the properties of music.

Theater Suites: Arts Crush Theater Week Launch Event. Oct. 16 5:30. Hotel Maxwell – A one-of-a-kind performance event and party hosted by Theatre Puget Sound and The Maxwell Hotel. Stephanie Timm, Kathy Hsieh, Maggie Lee & May Nguyen and Vince Delaney will create new works written specifically for hotel rooms. Hourly performance tours lead patrons on a dramatic journey peeking in on the secret lives of guests.

Backstage Comedy Oct.10 6:30 pm. Seattle Repertory Theater. – They're pulling back the curtain and inviting folks backstage for a one-of-a-kind theatre experience. Enjoy a guided backstage tour of the building with sneak peek performances by local actors.

### **About ARTS CRUSH**

ARTS CRUSH is a month-long festival connecting artists and audiences with invigorating new experiences at hundreds of events across the Puget Sound region. Spotlighting a different discipline each week, the festival features opportunities to participate in theatre, music, literature, dance, visual arts and more. It reaches people in unique ways; through hands-on participation, once-a-year glimpses behind the scenes, and surprise arts experiences in unexpected places. In addition, ARTS CRUSH extends an open invitation to sample the abundance of arts and culture in our region by adopting creative pay-what-you will or discounted fee structures for traditional arts experiences. The ARTS CRUSH goals are to:

- Engage community
- Create access
- Inspire creativity
- Build audiences

ARTS CRUSH is made possible by generous support from Amazon.com, Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau, Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, and 4Culture. The ARTS CRUSH Kick-Off Fair is co-sponsored by Seattle Center.

### **About Theatre Puget Sound**

THEATRE PUGET SOUND (TPS) is a leadership and service organization founded in 1997 to advocate for the region's growing theatre community's causes and administer much-needed services. TPS is now the Northwest's premier arts advocacy and leadership organization. TPS has a two-fold mission: To promote the spiritual and economic necessity of theatre to the public, and to unify and strengthen the theatre community through programs, resources, and services. TPS serves more than 1,700 theatre practitioners and 130 organizations within our region. In addition to ARTS CRUSH, TPS sponsors workshops and seminars, regional auditions, manages affordable rehearsal and performance space in the Seattle Center House, produces the annual Gregory Awards, and coordinates and promotes other events which strengthen and celebrate our local community.

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