



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRIAN COPELAND'S "NOT A GENUINE BLACK MAN" TOURS CALIFORNIA

Proceeds to Benefit Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation

WALNUT CREEK, California – September 4, 2007 – After a smash run Off Broadway, comedian and author, Brian Copeland, brings his hit solo show NOT A GENUINE BLACK MAN home to the San Francisco Bay Area. The play, which holds the record for the longest running solo show in San Francisco history, will run the month of October at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, California. Proceeds from the Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6 shows will benefit Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). Mark your calendar now as seats for both days are limited!

Brian Copeland's first solo show, NOT A GENUINE BLACK MAN, reveals a little-known chapter of Bay Area history. In 1971, San Leandro was named one of the most racist suburbs in America. Congressional hearings were held. The next year, the then eight-year-old Brian Copeland and his African-American family moved to San Leandro. In a monologue that's both funny and poignant, Brian explores how surroundings make us who we are.

The weekend skies will be filled with stars when the curtains open on Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's (ARF) Stars to the Rescue XIV gala. Please join host Tony La Russa the weekend of January 7-8, 2005 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek for ARF's 14th annual fundraiser.

The "Stars" weekend begins Friday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m. when rock and roll legends Tesla, Brad Gillis from Night Ranger, along with Pat Travers perform at ARF Rocks! These rockers from the '80's will be joined by comedian Scott LaRose, who for years has kept audiences laughing on the hit television show, Comedy Central and up and coming singer, Jeff Austin Black. Sponsored by The Morgridge Family, ARF Rocks! will open with the band, West Grand.

Sponsored by Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, Stars to the Rescue XIV on Saturday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. will showcase country sensations Vince Gill and Amy Grant. Also joining Tony La Russa will be funny woman Vicki Lawrence, well known for her comedic talents on the Carol Burnett Show. The ever popular Kevin Cronin and Dave Amato from REO Speedwagon will return for this star-studded weekend and will be joined by Jonathan Cain, keyboardist from Journey, 2004 CMA Horizon Award winner Julie Roberts and Broadway singing star, Anastasia Barzee.

Tickets for both shows are expected to sell out quickly and are available for purchase now by calling 925-943-SHOW. ARF Rocks! tickets are priced at \$50 and \$35 and Stars to the Rescue tickets are \$300 and \$100.

Rounding out the Stars weekend, ARF's Canine Winter Games on Sunday, January 9 will commence at 9:00 a.m. in the Nestlé Purina Dog Training Pavilion at ARF's Adoption and Education Center in Walnut Creek. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. for this fun-filled day of canine-cool activities, including Marathon Beg, Egg Walk, Cutest Trick, Fastest Eater and many others. Throughout the day, educational presentations will also be conducting for the whole family. For additional information or registration forms on this exciting dog day afternoon, please call 925-296-3111.

Funds raised from these fantastic fundraisers will be used by ARF's Adoption and Education Center to save the lives of loving dogs and cats who have run out of time at public shelters. ARF gives another chance at life to dogs and cats who would have otherwise be killed. ARF provides the care and attention they need, including spay or neuter surgery, until ARF finds them a new home of their own.

ARF's People Connect programs strengthen the human animal bond for the elderly, residents of assisted living centers, teens at juvenile hall, high school students, grade school students and young children through programs that are national models of excellence.

ARF programs allow people to experience the unconditional love and acceptance of dogs and cats. People rescuing animals...animals rescuing people.

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