



## PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release June 1, 2011 FREE/MUSIC/DANCE EVENT LISTINGS

#### Attention Editors/Writers:

J.A.M.s listings in English: <http://www.fordtheatres.org/en/events/category/id/37>

J.A.M.s listings in Spanish: <http://www.fordtheatres.org/es/events/category/id/37>

## FORD'S FREE J.A.M. SESSIONS START JUNE 13 WITH AFRICAN DRUMMING

### Experience the Ford and release your inner artist

LOS ANGELES— If you've ever wanted to perform on the Ford stage or have a chance to learn from the Ford season artists, J.A.M. (Jazzed and Motivated) Sessions are for you. There are 10 free, interactive events on Monday nights between June 13 and September 19. Participants in the first J.A.M. will get to meet and drum with Senegalese master drummer Pape Dethie Sarr Diouf. Other J.A.M. artists/instructors include West Coast Swing dance experts Doug Silton and Pete Green of Where's Westie, Argentine tango specialists Gloria and Claudio Otero and Samoan fire knife dance guru Tui Letuli of Weekend in Polynesia.

J.A.M.s are designed for everyone, from the completely inexperienced to the amateur and professional. All sessions are free. Reservations can be made at [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org): click on Events, then J.A.M. Sessions (there is a small handling fee for reserving online). Or call the Ford Box Office at **323 461-3673** and avoid handling fees.

"If you've never been to the Ford, it's a great way to experience it for free and meet artists who will be performing on the season," says Adam Davis, Managing Director of the Ford Theatres for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. "If you know the Ford, you'll enjoy it from a different perspective."

The multi-level Ford complex is located in a Los Angeles County Regional Park and affords spectacular views of the surrounding Hollywood Hills. Dance J.A.M.s are usually held on the outdoor Ford Amphitheatre stage so J.A.M.mers have the performers' point of view. Music J.A.M.s can be in the entryway or on the terrace, any place where break-out groups of J.A.M.mers gather and play.

The 2011 J.A.M. Sessions, at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays are

- June 13**      [Sengalese Dance & Percussion](#)  
Master drummer Pape Dethie Sarr Diouf and the Balle Fette Bu Senegal lead participants in Sengalese dance and drumming (drums provided courtesy of BOOM!KLACK! Percussions).
- June 20**      [Bollywood into the Night](#)  
Catch the infectious music and joyous dance moves as blue13 dance company members teach Bollywood and Bhangra styles to the music of DJ Sandeep Kumar.
- June 27**      [West Coast Swing](#)  
Start off the evening with lessons from Doug Silton and Pete Green of the popular local Where's Westie events. Then show off your new moves to live music by Brother Yusef, who plays what he coins "Fattback Blues."  
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- July 11**      [Flamenco, ¡Ole!](#)  
Choose between learning the intricate, passionate dance steps taught by acclaimed Flamenco dancer Cristina Hall and trying your hands at palmas (Flamenco percussion) led by guitar maestro David Maldonado and YAEL. Then combine both skills!
- July 25**      [Sing & Play](#)  
Koffeehouse Music provides a platform for local independent musicians. Aspiring vocalists, come performance ready with your best song (acoustic instruments welcome too).
- August 1**      [Tango, Tango, Tango!](#)  
JAMmers will learn authentic Argentine Tango from Gloria and Claudio Otero, accompanied by The Dina Durand Tango trio on piano, guitar and bandoneon.
- August 22**      [Salsa Dance](#)  
Let the artists of the Latin dance-theatre troupe CONTRA-TIEMPO lead you through the intricate footwork basics of Salsa.
- August 29**      [Bluegrass Open-mic](#)  
Join a "band scramble," with the Bluegrass Association of Southern California. Bring your bluegrass instrument and/or your voice and see what happens!
- Sept 12**      [Art Circle](#)  
Make art as you collaborate with String Theory – an ensemble of musicians and dancers that utilizes invented instruments and sonic sculpture. Your drawings will inspire movement pieces and original piece music right on the spot!
- Sept 19**      [Samoa & Tahitian Dance](#)  
Tui Letuli of Weekend in Polynesia teaches the basics of the Samoan fire knife dance using practice sticks. Also, learn to tell a story using chants, dance, beats and rhythms from Tiana Liufau of Nonosina Polynesia

J.A.M. Sessions are presented by the Ford Theatre Foundation with major support provided by The James Irvine Foundation.

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East in Hollywood, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. The grounds open one hour before J.A.M. Sessions start with time for picnicking. On-site parking is free!

These events are part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2011 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. For a complete season schedule, directions to the theater and parking information, log on to [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org)

The **Ford Theatre Foundation**, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1994, supports performing arts programming at the historic John Anson Ford Theatres complex. Foundation programming, including the Community Bridges program, J.A.M. sessions, and the Big!World!Fun! Family series, addresses both the rich diversity of the performing arts within Los Angeles and maintains the Ford as a site for communities to gather for affirmative cultural experiences.

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to programming the John Anson Ford Theatres, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation; and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration and 70 free concerts. The 2011-12 President of the Arts Commission is Ollie Blanning.

For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit:  
<http://www.lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>

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