



PRESS RELEASE

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FAMILY / MUSIC EVENT LISTINGS

Attention Editors/Writers:

TAIKOPROJECT event page in English: <http://fordtheatres.org/en/events/details/id/79>

TAIKOPROJECT event page in Spanish: <http://fordtheatres.org/es/events/details/id/79>

Photos available upon request

THE BIG DRUMS OF TAIKO THUNDER ON THE FORD'S FAMILY SERIES JULY 10 AT 10:00 A.M.

TAIKOPROJECT melds traditional Japanese drumming with hip hop

Children admitted FREE to one-hour programs for families.

The drummers of TAIKOPROJECT, with characteristic humor and verve, show how they get powerful sounds from the big drums at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 10 at the Ford Amphitheatre's Big!World!Fun! family series. This high energy LA-based group gives the art of Japanese taiko drumming their own distinct spin, incorporating elements of hip hop. Pre-show kid-friendly activities begin at 9:00 a.m. with a music performance by Renee and Jeremy.

The hour-long Big!World!Fun! performances in the shaded outdoor amphitheatre are designed for the enjoyment of children ages 4 to 10, parents and grandparents. The series is presented by the Ford Theatre Foundation. Booklists related to each series event, provided by the Los Angeles County Library, are available at www.FordTheatres.org; click on "Family" under "Events" on the homepage, then click on "More Info" for the event that interests you.

Admission to all events is FREE for children and \$5 for adults. Parking is \$1 per vehicle. To reserve/purchase tickets, call the Ford box office at **323 461-3673** or visit www.FordTheatres.org.

TAIKOPROJECT, founded in 2000, was conceived by Bryan Yamami with the idea of bringing together the best young taiko players in North America to create an innovative, theatrical production celebrating American taiko. TAIKOPROJECT went on its first world tour in 2003. Since then, the group has

performed across the U.S., Dubai, China, Japan, Greece, and received numerous awards including First Place at the 4th Annual Tokyo International Taiko Contest, becoming the first American taiko group to win the entire contest. In 2005, the women of TAIKOPROJECT performed in Mitsubishi Motors' National Commercial for the Eclipse sports car. TAIKOPROJECT was featured in David Mamet's 2008 film "Redbelt" and performed with John Legend and A.R. Rahman ("Slumdog Millionaire") at the 2009 Academy Awards telecast.

Big!World!Fun! continues with the Celtic bagpipes, drums and jigs of the **Wicked Tinkers** (July 24); **Viver Brasil** sharing dance, music and myths of Afro-Brazilian culture (July 31); Latin American harpist-storyteller **Alfredo Rolando Ortiz** tracing his musical odyssey (August 7); dance and music of the Philippines from **Kayamanan Ng Lahi** (August 14); **Boxtales Theatre Company's** production of the Indian fable "Prince Rama and the Monkey King" (August 21); and an opportunity to sing along with **LA Opera's** artists in "Sing Out Loud!" (August 28).

The Big!World!Fun! Family Series is sponsored by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, City of Los Angeles 4th District Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Sony Pictures Entertainment and ABC7. The Autry National Center and The Los Angeles County Library are series partners.

Big!World!Fun! family events are part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2010 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. For complete season information log on to **www.FordTheatres.org**.

The **Ford Theatre Foundation**, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1994, supports the performing arts and education activities that are presented at the Ford Theatres. The Foundation's Community Bridges program builds audiences by encouraging and facilitating participation in the theatres' programs and brings Ford performers to youth and social service centers based in Asian Pacific Islander and Latino communities throughout Los Angeles County. In addition to presenting the Big!World!Fun! Family Series, the Foundation produces the free, interactive J.A.M. (Jazzed and Motivated) Sessions during the Ford's summer season.

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 broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 40 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2010-11 President of the Arts Commission is Ronald D. Rosen. For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit: <http://lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>

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THE FACTS

WHAT

TAIKOPROJECT, high energy Japanese drumming generating powerful sounds

WHEN

Saturday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Pre-show activities begin at 9:00 a.m. Families are advised to arrive early. Space is limited.

WHERE

Ford Amphitheatre

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068

Just off the 101 (Hollywood) freeway across from Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal.

PLEASE NOTE:

The amphitheatre is outdoors and shaded, but remember your sunscreen and a hat.

On-site concessions are available.

HOW MUCH

Children FREE

Adults \$5

Reservations are strongly recommended.

PURCHASE/RESERVE TICKETS

323 461-3673

www.FordTheatres.org

There is a \$1.50 service charge for reserving children's tickets online.

PARKING

On-site, stacked parking costs \$1 per vehicle.

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