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Open Dream Ensemble Begins Its Seventh Season
Cast Comprised of UNCSA Graduates

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (September 19, 2011) – The Open Dream Ensemble, a professional multi-disciplinary children’s performance group sponsored by the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), has launched its 2011 season, which marks its seventh year performing in schools throughout the Southeast.

The Open Dream Ensemble will be performing *Peril on the Red Planet* at various schools throughout the Southeast during the 2011 school fall semester. In addition, they will carry out elementary school residencies that integrate the arts and science curricula.

*Peril on the Red Planet* is an original play set in the future and tells the story of 13 year-old Diana as she works to end famine on Mars. She reconstructs the machine that made human habitation possible on Mars and unexpectedly unleashes more problems. Her efforts to save life on Mars lead her on an important quest, during which she learns life lessons about community, responsibility, teamwork and sacrifice. *Peril on the Red Planet* is geared to grades 2-7.

The 2011 Open Dream Ensemble is comprised of the following cast members, all of whom are UNCSA graduates:

Marissa Byers, High School Diploma in Clarinet, School of Music 1996 (Winston-Salem, NC)

Julianne Harper, BFA in Contemporary Dance 2005 (Garland, Texas)

Andrew Jernigan, BFA in Acting, School of Drama 2010 (Dallas, TX, currently resides in NYC)

Guy Kelpin, MM in Film Music Composition, School of Music 2001; MM in
Trombone, School of Music 2005 (Waukesha, WI)

Adrian Knowles, BFA in Acting, School of Drama 2011 (New Bern, NC)

Danielle Rennalls, BFA in Directing, School of Drama 2011 (Mt. Vernon, NY)

Ulungh Mikael Tanoto, BFA in Film Music Composition, School of Filmmaking 2011 (Kudus, Central Java, Indonesia)

Haydee Thompson, College Diploma, School of Drama 1994; BFA in Acting, School of Drama 2007 (Mt. Joy, PA and Arlington, VA)

William vonReichbauer, High School Diploma in Guitar, School of Music 1996, BM in Guitar, School of Music 2000 (Raleigh, NC)

Other UNCSA Alumni and current students participating in the 2011 season are:

Rebecca Nussbaum, General Manager of Open Dream Ensemble, BM in Flute, School of Music 1997 (Winston-Salem, NC)

Joshua Morgan, Director, Arts Diploma in Acting, School of Drama 2005 (Montclair, NJ)

Brian Sutow, Director, BFA in Acting, School of Drama 2009 (Evanston, IL)

Bridget van Dyke, current student studying toward BFA in Technical Direction, School of Design and Production 2013 (Raleigh, NC)

Alicia Williard, current student studying toward BM in Composition, School of Music 2012 (Overland Park, KS)

The Open Dream Ensemble also is creating its second original web-series for children centered on the mathematician Pythagoras. The new series will air in November on the UNCSA (www.uncsa.edu) website.

All Open Dream Ensemble productions and residencies highlight the importance of responsibility, teamwork, diligence, imagination and intellectual curiosity. Ties to science, social studies and guidance goals are staples of the Open Dream Ensemble repertoire. Each Open Dream Ensemble performer is a trained Teaching Artist dedicated to creating and implementing elementary school residencies that have a lasting impact.
The Open Dream Ensemble is a professional outreach program of UNCSA in Winston-Salem and is comprised of professional artists who trained in dance, drama, music and filmmaking at UNCSA. Using the diverse skills of its cast, Open Dream Ensemble presents original performances to school students throughout the Southeast. Open Dream Ensemble combines the power of live performances with artist residencies, aligning the content with current school curriculum. More information on the Open Dream Ensemble is available at www.OpenDreamEnsemble.com or by calling (336) 782-7837.

The Open Dream Ensemble is a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, which incubates projects that sustain artists at every point in their creative development through strategic partnerships that capitalize on visionary thinking in the arts. For more information, visit www.uncsa.edu/kenan.

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (www.uncsa.edu) is the University of North Carolina’s conservatory for the arts, dedicated entirely to the professional training of students possessing exceptional talents in the performing, visual and moving image arts. UNCSA offers students focused, intense, professional training at the high school, baccalaureate, and masters levels in its schools of Dance, Design and Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music.

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