

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016

ELYSIUM  BANDINI
STUDIOS

PRESENTS

PARADIS

FEATURING

GO I KNOW NOT WHITHER AND FETCH I KNOW NOT WHAT

A SPECIAL COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE BY
CHOREOGRAPHER **RYAN HEFFINGTON**, FASHION DESIGNER **ALIONA KONONOVA** AND
ROCK MUSICIAN **ILYA LAGUTENKO**

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016, 10PM

NIKKI BEACH AT THE CARLTON HOTEL, 58 BLVD DE LA CROISSETTE 06414 CANNES



Los Angeles, Calif.– Elysium Bandini Studios, the newly founded philanthropic film studio which brings together Jennifer Howell’s The Art of Elysium and James Franco and Vince Jolivette’s Rabbit Bandini production company, announced today that it will present the 8th annual benefit PARADIS on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 10 pm at Nikki Beach at the Carlton Hotel, Cannes.

Hosted by The Art of Elysium Board Chairman Tim Headington, this year's PARADIS will further the mission of Elysium Bandini Studios to support groundbreaking film projects with emerging storytellers and professionals with related proceeds going entirely to The Art of Elysium.

Like The Art of Elysium's counterpart HEAVEN, an annual charity event held in Los Angeles the night before the Golden Globes, PARADIS is helmed by radical visionaries, who design the evening to reflect their personal vision of heaven or of "paradis." This year's PARADIS will feature renowned choreographer Ryan Heffington, best known for his award-winning choreography of Sia's *Chandelier* video, acclaimed fashion designer Aliona Kononova, and modern Russia's best-known rock musician, singer, and songwriter Ilya Lagutenko of Mumiy Troll, who will collaborate for the first time to create an evocative performance, *Go I Know Not Whither and Fetch I Know Not What*, bringing together fashion, music, choreography, and film.

"I feel that Cannes is an extremely important platform for ELYSIUM BANDINI STUDIOS. The philanthropic studio model is the future of The Art of Elysium and has the potential to build an endowment that will allow us to expand artistic services to a much broader sector of people in need. The potential sustainability of this new endeavor is what I am most excited about in my new position as Chairman of the Board," said The Art of Elysium's Board Chairman, Tim Headington.

"We are thrilled for Elysium Bandini Studios to be hosting our first international event at the Cannes Film Festival. This festival has a history of finding and fostering filmmakers that give back to the world through artistic expression. Our hope with the studio is to support emerging artists and filmmakers who are both talented and giving. To build a community of artists that collaborate and find ways to help one another and the world at large is what we are dedicated to building with Elysium Bandini Studios," said Jennifer Howell, Founder, The Art of Elysium and Co-Founder of Elysium Bandini Studios with James Franco and Vince Jolivet.

Inspired by the morphology of Russian fairy tales according to the studies of Vladimir Propp (1928), *Go I Know Not Whither and Fetch I Know Not What* investigates the enduring cultural power of fairy tales using choreography as a narrative instrument to animate Propp's seven fairy tale characters.

Go I Know Not Whither and Fetch I Know Not What is organized by Lyn Winter, Inc.

The event is presented with the media support of international online contemporary culture platform Buro 24/7.

Makeup provided by M.A.C.



Past PARADIS guests have included Elizabeth Banks, Rachel Bilson, Victoria Bonya, Adrien Brody, Gerard Butler, Brandon Cronenberg, Melonie Diaz, Kirsten Dunst, James Franco, Hofit Golan, Ryan Gosling, Jon Hamm, Vanessa Hudgens, Caleb Landry Jones, Karolina Kurkova, Amaury Nolasco, Jorge Perez, Ahna O'Reilly, Giovanni Ribisi, Louise Roe, Jamie-Lynn Sigler, Carly Steel, Octavia Spencer, Quentin Tarantino, Paz Vega, Jennifer Westfeldt, Olivia Wilde and Robin Wright.

Previous HEAVEN visionaries for The Art of Elysium have included Jim Sheridan, Shepard Fairey, Mark Mothersbaugh, Cameron Silver, Colleen Atwood, Linda Perry, Marina Abramovic and Vivienne Westwood. Music and fashion performances within HEAVEN have included Estelle, musical duo Rodrigo y Gabriela, Billy Idol, hip-hop artist Talib Kweli, John Legend, Moby, Steven Tyler, Evan Rachel Wood, record producer Daniel Lanois, Marc Jacobs, Vogue, Costume National amongst others.

The Art of Elysium's 20th Anniversary will be celebrated at the 10th Annual HEAVEN in Los Angeles on January 7, 2017.

ABOUT RYAN HEFFINGTON

Ryan Heffington is a performance artist, choreographer, designer and the owner of The Sweat Spot dance space in Los Angeles. Heffington has staked his claim in both the commercial and art worlds. His exhaustive resume includes work in national art galleries, on fashion show runways, professional dance stages, numerous TV shows and at some of the grittiest nightclubs around the globe.

Heffington's work has been featured at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art (Heffington Moves MOCA), the Hammer Museum, Charlottenborg Museum (Copenhagen), and more. He is the recipient of the 2014 VMA award and 2015 EMA Nominee for Best Choreography for his video work with Sia. Their collaboration on "Chandelier" music video hails more than 1 Billion Internet views, ranking it one of the most watched videos in history.

Heffington also received attention for choreographing Muse's "Uprising" performance at the 2011 Grammys and Sia's 2015 Grammy performance with Kristin Wiig and Emma Stones performance in the "Anna" video by Will Butler. He has worked with dozens of music artists: Florence + The Machine, FKA Twigs, Lykke Li, Chet Faker, Arcade Fire, Massive Attack and many more. His work is featured in the upcoming "Mascots" feature with Christopher Guest (Netflix), "Baby Driver" film w/ Ansel Elgort, and Netflix's upcoming series The OA. Heffington has been described by the Los Angeles Times as a "mad Bob Fosse with a sewing machine," as "Martha Graham on meth," and as "A force to be reckoned with".

ABOUT ALIONA KONONOVA

Designer Aliona Kononova has spent years honing her craft and vision. After graduating from the Istituto Europeo di Design in Milan, Italy, Kononova completed an internship with renowned fashion designer Salvatore Ferragamo in Florence and went on to head the creative office at Denis Simachev in Milan. In 2009, she launched the MOE brand in Milan, where she lived and worked for twelve years. Kononova's unwavering aesthetic, defined by sweeping architectural lines and geometric forms, has deemed her a fashion favorite among the international art crowd.

Aliona participated in the 54th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in 2011, representing Moldova for the Transnistria Project. In the same year, Kononova won Stephen Jones, Vogue UK and Talenthouse's millinery talent competition, judged by Jones himself and Vogue.com's editor Dolly Jones. Kononova's Dandelion Hat, created using fiber rays, was published in Vogue, where she was recognized as "Millinery's New Star," and exhibited alongside the greatest hats of the last century in Hats: An Anthology at New York's Bard Graduate Center Gallery from September 2011 to April 2012.

Additional awards won by Kononova include the 2010 award for the design of the Auditorium pop-up bar in the Ritz-Carlton, Moscow; the 2003 Adotta una Pigotta competition organized by UNICEF for the design of a Mongolian Chykcha doll; a competition organized by Benetton and Shima Seiki in 2002 for the design of a knitted nest total look, presented at Pitti Imagine, and in 2001 Kononova was among the winners of a competition organized by YKK for her transformer Angel Wings bag.

Kononova's work has been featured in the international fashion and lifestyle media including, among others Vogue.co.uk, Vogue.it, Vogue.co.jp, and Vogue.fr, Uomo Vogue, New York Times, La Repubblica, InStyle, Los Angeles Times, Angeleno, Elle.com, Elle.ru, HATalk, Volt Magazine, theblondeandthebrunette.com, Lucy's Magazine and The Sartorialist. Aliona Kononova resides in Los Angeles.

ABOUT ILYA LAGUTENKO

Ilya Lagutenko is modern Russia's best-known rock musician, singer, and songwriter. Born into a family of famous Soviet architects, he was raised in the Pacific port of Vladivostok and involved in music from a very young age. However he got his degree in Chinese history and economy and worked in both London and Shanghai as a Chinese translator. The group, for which he is renowned nationally, is MUMIY TROLL was reactivated in the late 1990s, when the band's first album appeared and their video for "Vladivostok 2000" was the very first clip played on MTV Russia. Mumiy Troll gained cult status in ex-CIS countries for their artistic approach and ability to fuse different genres as well as for high-energy performances. Acting roles transpired soon afterwards, as did the opportunity for soundtracks. Ilya's filmography currently numbers nineteen features, while his discography—both with Mumiy Troll and in collaborations—contains over fifteen LPs. National fame led to charity work in the fields of AIDS prevention and wild nature preservation, specifically regarding Russia's rare tiger population. In 2013, Ilya founded the V-ROX Festival, designed to foster commercial and creative bridges with Pacific Rim countries popular music. His self-produced music documentary phantasmagory "Vladivostok Vacation" is featuring in "Focus on Russia" series of events at Cannes 2016.

ABOUT ELYSIUM BANDINI STUDIOS

Elysium Bandini Studios brings together Jennifer Howell's The Art of Elysium with James Franco and Vince Jolivette's Rabbit Bandini production company to support groundbreaking film projects with emerging storytellers and professionals with any proceeds going entirely to The Art of Elysium. The 19-year-old charity brings actors and other artists into contact with people in need — from hospitalized children to the elderly and homeless too, soon, veterans and prisoners. As many as 4,000 artists work with needy clients on projects ranging from essays, to poetry to plays, films and art installations.

Elysium Bandini Studios is committed to helping filmmakers build their careers and fulfill their artistic vision so that they can in turn share their talent, resources and creativity with critically ill, medically disabled youth and their families. Fourteen features directed by students from UCLA, Cal Arts, USC, and NYU, have been produced to date featuring, among others, Natalie Portman, Kristen Wiig, Jimmy Kimmel, Jessica Chastain, Whoopi Goldberg and James Franco.

ABOUT BURO 24/7

Buro 24/7 is a cutting-edge, contemporary news website, which covers the latest events from around the world in fashion, art, music, film, books, cars, travel, social life and more. It prides itself on providing its readers with breaking news before anyone else, ensuring that they are well informed with everything under the luxury and intelligent lifestyle umbrella.

Buro 24/7 is the leading authority when it comes to contemporary culture, presenting successful people with authoritative opinions – precisely the people who decide what the world around us will look like tomorrow; the modern, creative pioneers, the game changers, and the trendsetters.

Founded by Russian style icon Miroslava Duma, the *Buro 24/7* brand has expanded from Russia to 10 regions including Croatia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Middle East, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Mongolia, and Mexico.

ABOUT NIKKI BEACH WORLDWIDE

In 1998, entrepreneur Jack Penrod introduced the world to Nikki Beach, the first and original luxury beach club concept that combines the elements of music, dining, entertainment, fashion, film and art into one.

Today, the Nikki Beach concept has transcended its international venues and grown into a global, multifaceted luxury lifestyle and hospitality brand comprised of a Beach Club Division; a Hotels & Resorts Division; a Lifestyle Division; a Special Events Division and Nikki Cares, a 501c3 Non-Profit Charity Division.

Nikki Beach can now be experienced in: Miami Beach, Florida, USA; Saint Tropez, France; Saint Barth, French West Indies; Marbella, Spain; Marrakech, Morocco; Koh Samui, Thailand; Mallorca, Spain; Ibiza, Spain; Porto Heli, Greece; Bali, Indonesia; Monte Carlo, Monaco; and Dubai, UAE. Nikki Beach has pop-up locations during the Cannes and Toronto Film Festivals. The Hotels & Resorts division has properties in Koh Samui, Thailand and Porto Heli, Greece. In 2016, Nikki Beach will be opening a resort in Dubai, UAE, and Bodrum, Turkey.

ABOUT LYN WINTER, INC

Lyn Winter, Inc. is a contemporary art and culture communications and creative strategy agency specializing in contemporary art, design, fashion, architecture and luxury and lifestyle. Based in Los Angeles, California, the agency represents contemporary art museums, foundations, galleries and art projects, designers, design fairs and showrooms, fashion designers, architecture firms and international brands involved in contemporary culture.

The scope of services provided includes business, brand and communications strategy, media, donor and VIP relations, strategic marketing counsel, audience and client development, events and cultural influencer programs, creative direction and design consulting. Through extensive relationships with influencers, artists and cultural visionaries around the world, the agency provides its clients with opportunities to experience and engage meaningfully with contemporary art and culture.

Lyn Winter has worked with major corporations and institutions including Christie's, Google, Levi's, Louis Vuitton, Marriott International, Merrill Lynch, MTV Networks, and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. She has directed communications campaigns and projects for a number of notable exhibitions and cultural events, working directly with artists, architects, designers and cultural visionaries including Marina Abramovic, Doug Aitken, Urs Fischer, James Franco, Ryan Heffington, Cai Guo-Qiang, Aliona Kononova, Harmony Korine, Malcolm McLaren, Scott Mitchell, Takashi Murakami, Marvyn Scott Jarrett, Taryn Simon, Hedi Slimane, Ryan Trecartin, and Francesco Vezzoli.

Image credits top to bottom: Photo by Scott Caan, courtesy The Art of Elysium; Aliona Kononova, photo by Lars H for Volt Magazine, Ilya Lagutenko, photo Michael Muller; Ryan Heffington performing, courtesy Ryan Heffington

CAPACITY FOR PARADIS 2016 IS LIMITED, FOR TICKET INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

RSVP@theartofelysium.org

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

events@lynwinter.com

●●●ENDS●●●