

NEWS



from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM TO HOST BENEFIT SCREENING OF HOLLYWOOD FILM

Actors Christopher Walken and William H. Macy to attend premiere in Worcester

(WORCESTER, Mass., February 4, 2009) — Worcester Art Museum will host the benefit screening of *The Maiden Heist*, a film starring actors Christopher Walken, Morgan Freeman and William H. Macy on March 7, 2009. Director Peter Hewitt, Producer Rob Paris, and Writer Michael LeSieur as well as Walken and Macy are scheduled to attend the screening of the film at The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts in Worcester.

The Maiden Heist follows three museum security guards (played by Walken, Freeman and Macy) who, upset over the new curator's decision to change the museum's entire collection, plot to steal a beloved work of art from the museum. Filmed in Worcester Art Museum's Renaissance Court and galleries, *The Maiden Heist* will be released worldwide in 2009.

Prior to the screening, the Museum will host a VIP reception where guests are invited to mingle with Walken, Macy, Hewitt, Paris and LeSieur. Following the screening, an After Party will take place at the Museum. Guests are invited to explore the spaces where the movie was filmed, view the paintings that appear in the film and participate in an auction of reproduced paintings signed by the film's stars.

The Maiden Heist benefit screening is sponsored by Unum, with additional support from The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation. Media sponsorship is provided by WSRS/WTAG.

“The Museum is so pleased that Unum is the lead sponsor for this spectacular event, and that The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation is providing additional financial support,” said WAM Director of Advancement, Brian Barlow. “To have two of the largest companies in Worcester come together to help us bring this important benefit event for the Museum really shows how Worcester can sustain world-class cultural institutions in our city. I would also like to thank Rob Paris, a producer for the film, who helped make this happen for us.”

“We are happy to be the Presenting Sponsor of The Maiden Heist,” said J. Christopher Collins, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Unum, as well as President of the Board of Trustees at the Worcester Art Museum. “We are pleased that our gift will not only support the Worcester Art Museum but will also provide an educational opportunity for many young people in our community to attend a World Premiere of a Hollywood motion picture and write their own critic's review. It will be a great night for all of Worcester.”

"Hosting a benefit for WAM, featuring some of the most talented actors of our time, represents a great moment for Worcester and The Hanover Theatre. We are proud to be a part of it all," said Linda McGowan, president of The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation. "This event exemplifies what we set out to do in our support of the theatre—to help build a signature facility that would attract world class entertainment to our great city, helping to fuel economic development."

“We at The Hanover Theatre are thrilled to be a part of this premiere of a major motion picture filmed right here in the heart of downtown Worcester” said Troy Siebels, Executive Director of The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts. “Our collaboration and partnership with the Worcester Art Museum on this event is a great example of the revitalization happening in Worcester, and the world class cultural resources we have.”

Located on Salisbury St., in Worcester, Massachusetts, the Worcester Art Museum opened in 1898 and is one of America’s most respected art Museums. The Museum is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. For more information, visit www.worcesterart.org.

Schedule of Events and Ticket Prices

6pm VIP Reception, The Hanover Theatre

Go all out and mingle with our friends from Hollywood on stage at The Hanover Theatre! Includes an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. **Limited tickets available.**

Scheduled to attend the VIP Reception:

Christopher Walken

William H. Macy

Peter Hewitt, Director

Rob Paris, Producer

Michael LeSieur, Writer

7:30pm The Maiden Heist Screening, The Hanover Theatre

View the World Premiere in the grand setting of Worcester's own world-class theatre.

9pm After Party, Worcester Art Museum

In true Hollywood style, join us to party the night away in the Renaissance Court. View the spaces where the movie was filmed, and see if you can find the real works of art that appeared in the film. Yes, there will even be a silent auction of a few reproductions from the off-site shoot, some signed by the stars! Includes a cash bar as well as sweets & savories.

Pricing and Tickets

Tickets can only be purchased through The Hanover Theatre by calling the box office at 877-571-SHOW (7469) or online at www.thehanovertheatre.org

\$200 pp VIP Reception, Film Screening, After Party

\$75 pp Film Screening, After Party

\$30 pp Film Screening

SPONSORSHIP

The Worcester Art Museum presents the world premiere of *The Maiden Heist*, sponsored by Unum, with additional support from The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation. Media sponsorship provided by WSRS/WTAG.

ABOUT THE FILM

The Maiden Heist gives us the most endearing characters ever to commit grand larceny: three museum security guards who live lives of quiet captivity, each enraptured by a particular work of art.

Roger (Christopher Walken), Charles (Morgan Freeman) and George (William H. Macy) are each so lost in fascination with the particular object d'art of his affection that although they have

been coworkers for decades, they only just meet for the first time when crisis strikes: there's a new curator in town, and his plan is to change the museum's collection entirely, threatening to rob each man of his greatest secret passion in life.

However, having found their kindred spirits, the men forge a plan to hold onto the works of art they hold most dear. Though hardly criminal masterminds, their inflamed hearts drive them to plan and execute the most daring art heist ever conceived from the inside- with bumblingly hilarious results!

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