

Staten Island Museum
Contact: Rachel Somma
Communications Coordinator
75 Stuyvesant Place, SI, NY 10301
Phone: 718-483-7117
rsomma@statenmuseum.org

For Immediate Release

“Wonderland” at the St. George Ball

Interactive performance art and celebration at the Staten Island Museum

Event Dates: Saturday, December 10, 7:00pm – 11:00pm

Location: Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place, SI, NY 10301

Admission: Free for Museum members/ \$5 for non-members

(Staten Island, NY - November 2011) “Are you Alice?” is the question on everyone’s lips lately. Whether you are, or aren’t the little blonde in blue, the Queen of Hearts or just a card, you are invited to explore “Wonderland” at the St. George Ball on Saturday, December 10 at the Staten Island Museum, 7:00 – 11:00pm. Wonderland is an interactive party with wildly interesting performances inspired by the story of Alice and her journey being carried out throughout the night’s festivities in every curious corner, courtyard and couloir.

Mingle with the mad at this over 21 “tea” party with cocktails from the cash bar and free hors d'oeuvres provided by the Museum. Party guests and artists are encouraged, to don Wonderland inspired costumes and have their own adventure among the performances and installations.

Day de Dada Performance Art Collective has been enlisted again this year to create the magical atmosphere at the St. George Ball, the Staten Island Museum holiday party that welcomes the community to the Museum at the most festive time of year.

See the Dormouse's story of three sisters, fabulous costumes, poetry, video and installations that will make your journey through Wonderland come alive! Guests are invited to dress as their favorite Wonderland personality, or choose sides in the game and wear all red or black.

Come dance the lobster quadrille and paint the town and roses red at Wonderland: at the St. George Ball, Saturday, December 10, 7:00pm – 11:00pm at the Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place, SI, NY 10301.

Image:

Artists at SI Museum 2010 St. George Ball

Photo by Viv Vassar

The evening’s performers include:

Rachel Jensen will be performing as one of the sisters from the Dormouse’s story, dressed outlandishly and drawing things that only begin with the letter M.

Vivian Vassar channels the White Queen dressed with cards cascading from her gown, each up for grabs and containing instructions on how one might find Alice such as, “Tell everyone that you’ve

-more-

found the White Rabbit” or “Go to the Red Queen and beg forgiveness.”

Leslie Lowe, a Manhattan artist who specializes in make-up and costumes for plays, performances and independent films/videos, wears her fabulous Wonderland costume creation.

Richard Plunkett will fill the Museum’s courtyard with living sculptures creating mysterious shadows and flickering light.

Mary Campbell, a Staten Island artist, will call for the Lobster Quadrille, a square dance from the Alice in Wonderland story for all to join.

MT_ L. Brandon Krall, a Manhattan artist and video producer continues production on “ANOTHERalice”, her video version of the Lewis Carroll stories. This includes projection of two of the classic Alice in Wonderland films.

Jonathan Leiter a.k.a. *Minnie Van Driver* and the *International Ambassador of Love* is an Artist, Performer, Raconteur, Bon Vivant and Style Maven who will embody the Red Queen and entice you with tiny cakes and bottles of mysterious liquids shimmering with intrigue.

Michele Guttenberg, the *Mistress of Wearable Art* becomes the painting as she wears clothing that she has embellished with imaginary images inspired by Alice in Wonderland.

Jim Jeffers will be arriving by magic mushroom from Massachusetts to tell adventurous stories and make curious origami white rabbits.

Phil Sanders, a digital/interactive artist, theorist, educator, and curator will supply an interactive digital illusion to help you go down the rabbit hole.

Ned Sessa or *Natty Ned*, hailing from Charleston, South Carolina, expounds sounds and improvised wordy rap downstairs in the rabbit hole.

Mark Semanchik will mount the installation *Are you Alice?* using video filmed at various Staten Island galleries looking for the inner Alice, the hidden Alice, and the Uber-Alice. Presented in collaboration with *Viv de Dada*.

Francesca Leoni & Davide Mastrangelo, video performers from Milan, Italy, will charm us with a special Wonderland theme piece.

Every Thing Goes Clothing Store will provide clothing and props tagged “Wear me” or “Use me” and left throughout the Museum for the audience to experience.

Malachi McCormick, poet, writer and Stone Street Press publisher, reads aloud from *Alice in Wonderland* in his mellifluous voice.

Elektromotif, comprised of Marguerite Rivas, Doug Prinicipato and Will Wynn will perform stream of conscious poetry about Alice with Mr. Prinicipato playing ImprovFusion on electric guitar.

Joanna Dawe and **Amelia Sanders** will lead Helen Levin’s *Percussive Fandango* to celebrate the show *Gesture: In Paint and Software*, adding "Human" Software to the list, they will use audience

bodies and voices celebrate gesture in a "stomp" while Flamenco music plays.

Ed Weiss will illuminate the *Forgotten History of Staten Island: Alice Austin and Lewis Carroll* - this unknown story will finally be told.

Bobbaloo, the well-known musician and storyteller, leads the way through Wonderland with pipes and drums.

Various Installations - *Teeny Tiny Tea Party* - tea cups and tea pots will be set up in various parts of the museum for guests to partake. The curious will also find tags with whimsical instructions in and about the Museum.

Join the eclectic group of performers for whimsical fun, great activities, and then head down the rabbit hole for a unique dance party.

###

For 130 years, the Staten Island Museum has been fostering and sustaining scientific and cultural heritage on Staten Island. Founded in 1881, NYC's only general interest museum explores the arts, natural science, and local history through permanent and changing exhibitions and welcomes about 80,000 adults and school children to a comprehensive array of programs every year. Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. Down the road in Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions in the History Center Gallery, or make a research appointment for the History Archives & Library. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibitions, visit statenislandmuseum.org.

Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Pl.

Staten Island, NY 10301

Museum Hours:

Monday: 11am– 5pm

Tuesday-Friday: 11am – 5pm

Saturday 10am–5pm

Sunday 12pm-5pm

Main number: (718) 727-1135

The Museum building is wheelchair accessible. Call (718) 727-1135 for assistance.

Admission

Adults \$3.

Students and Seniors: \$2.

FREE to members and children under 12.

FREE Lunchtime Break: Every Tuesday between 12–2pm

History Center & Archives *New Location*

1000 Richmond Terrace, Snug Harbor Campus, Building H, Staten Island, NY 10301

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm by appointment

Please contact Cara Dellatte at (718) 727-1135, ext. 122

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 1pm – 4pm (FREE ADMISSION)