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“GIVE PEACE A CHANCE” MAKES FLORIDA DEBUT AT OLD SCHOOL SQUARE
Exhibit Dates: October 5-11, 2009

DELRAY BEACH, FL – September 10, 2009 -- Old School Square Cultural Center will host the Florida debut of the award-winning “Give Peace a Chance: John Lennon and Yoko Ono’s Bed-in for Peace” from October 5 - 11, 2009 in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the 1969 Montreal Bed-in for Peace and what would have been Lennon’s 69th birthday.

The exhibit will be on display in Old School Square’s Vintage Gymnasium, located on the corner of N.E. 1st Street and N.E. 1st Avenue in downtown Delray Beach. Exhibit admission is a suggested $2 donation (unless otherwise noted), which will support Old School Square’s Cornell Museum Exhibit & Arts Education Fund.

Exhibit Hours and Special Events:
All events are in the Vintage Gymnasium unless otherwise noted. Film titles subject to change.

Monday, Oct. 5 – Exhibit hours, 7-10 p.m.; Author Book Signing, 7-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 6 – Exhibit hours, 12-9 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 7 – Exhibit hours, 12-9 p.m
  • Author Book Signing, 2-4 p.m. (Vintage Gym)
  • Curator’s Happy Hour, 6-7:30 p.m. at Crane’s BeachHouse Hotel & Tiki Bar, 82 Gleason St., Delray Beach. Hosted by Square One, (OSS young professional group)
  • Film screening of “Give Peace a Song” at 8 pm, Crest Theatre, $5
Thursday, Oct. 8 – Exhibit hours, 12-9 p.m.
  • Author Book Signing, 1-2 pm and 7-8 p.m.
  • Curator’s Gallery Walk, 6:30-7 p.m.
  • Film screening of “Give Peace a Song”, 8 p.m., Crest Theatre, $5
Friday, Oct. 9 – Exhibit hours, 12-5 p.m. & 7-10 p.m.
  • The Big Lennon Birthday Bash, 7-10 p.m., $5 admission - Celebrating what would have been John Lennon’s 69th birthday AND all local birthday guys and gals! Noshes and sweets, live music with the Aldo Morales “910” Band, Author Book Signing, cash bar.
Saturday, Oct. 10 – Exhibit hours, 12-10 p.m.
  • Curator's Gallery Walk, 1-1:30 p.m.
  • Author Book Signing, 1:30-3 p.m. and 8-8:30 p.m.
Peace ’n Love Night, 7-10 p.m., $5 admission. Live music by the Aldo Morales “910” Band, Author Book Signing, cash bar.

Sunday, Oct. 11 – Exhibit hours, 12-6 p.m.
• Curator's Gallery Walk, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
• Author Book Signing, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
• Double feature, 3 p.m., “Hard Day's Night” and “Let it Be”, Crest Theatre, $5 suggested donation.

The exhibit contains 30 large format photographs, contributor interviews, music, memorabilia and interpretative illustrations. The photographs were taken by Gerry Deiter, who was on assignment for Life magazine and the only photographer to document the entire eight days of the Bed-In with John, Yoko and the famous people who dropped in. His images captured the essence of that week— the energy, the buzz, the excitement. The story never ran, however, due to coverage of the Vietnam War.

In 1969, John Lennon tacked his illustrations to the walls of suite 1742 in the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. 40 years later, interpretative illustrations by former Disney animator Stephen N. Austin will be mounted in the exhibition's recreated bed-in suite. Austin, who worked as an animator on such movies as Hunchback of Notre Dame, Mulan, Lilo and Stitch and Brother Bear, took his inspiration from Gerry Deiter's historic photographs and Al Hirschfeld's whimsical approach to convey a meaningful message.

Other Special components:
• Vintage guitars used by John Lennon during his career and Beatles memorabilia
• Give Art a Chance – Artwork created by South Florida students of all ages interpreting the theme: “Images of World Peace.” The artwork will later be on display during Delray Beach's First Night New Year's Eve celebration.
• Give Trees a Chance – Visitors will have the opportunity to place their written message for world peace on the Wish Tree and can also purchase a yellow ribbon for $1 to inscribe a name or message to tie around designated trees outside the gymnasium.

Gerry Deiter, a Brooklyn-born photographer working for Life and Time magazines in Montreal, shot more than 500 photos during the Bed-In. After his death in 2005, his trusted friend, Joan Athey, archived all the images. As curator of this exhibition, Athey carefully selected the photos and tracked down eyewitnesses for their recollections and stories. Yoko Ono wrote a letter included in the accompanying hard cover book and graphic exhibition text panel.

Joan Athey has worked with creative people all her life. As a marketing and promotion strategist for more than 20 years, she was a communications specialist for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and various major advertising agencies. Athey's company, Peaceworks Now Productions (www.peaceworksnow.com) is based in Victoria, British Columbia.

“Give Peace a Chance” is a collaboration between Old School Square Cultural Arts Center and ArtVision Exhibitions, LLC. For complete exhibition information, please visit the ArtVision website, www.artvisionexhibitions.com. ArtVision Exhibitions is a full-service exhibition and marketing company, providing photographic exhibitions and licensing historic images to fine art museums, libraries and distinguished venues worldwide. Creating cultural collaborations between business and art, ArtVision integrates comprehensive-packaged exhibitions, educational components, entertainment, and special events.

Old School Square is non-profit National Historic Site and Florida Cultural Institution, restored from its historic roots as Delray Elementary (c. 1913) and Delray High School (c. 1925). The facilities house the Cornell Museum of Art & American Culture, Crest Theatre, Entertainment Pavilion and Vintage Gymnasium, where diverse visual and performing arts programs, arts education, community events, outdoor concerts, films and festivals enrich the community. Programs are sponsored in part by the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council, Palm Beach County Cultural Council, and the Florida Arts Council. For information on programs, exhibits, classes or facility rentals, call 561-243-7922 or visit www.oldschool.org.

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