CHARLES PHOENIX BRINGS NOSTALGIC HOLIDAY CHEER TO THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE ON DEC. 6

‘Retro Holiday Slide Show’ closes DAI’s new Arts Night Out series

(DAYTON, OHIO) – November 19, 2012 – Humorist and “Ambassador of Americana” Charles Phoenix will offer a dose of nostalgic holiday cheer when he brings his Retro Holiday Slide Show to The Dayton Art Institute on Thursday, December 6, at 8 p.m.

The performance, sponsored by Square One Salon and Spa, closes the inaugural season of The Dayton Art Institute’s new Arts Night Out series.

Phoenix is a performer, humorist, chef and author. Through his live shows, videos, media appearances and books, the self-proclaimed “retro daddy” explores America’s classic and kitschy pop cultural past and present, and predicts retro-inspired future trends. Fans enjoy his unique spin and genuine reverence for all things Americana. Exuding a joy of life and exuberant enthusiasm, he encourages people to, “Get in touch with your inner Americana, embrace it, have a sense of humor about it, and proudly share it with the whole wide world.”

While growing up in Ontario, California, Phoenix became enamored with theme park environments, fashion fads, and used cars on his dad’s car lots. As a teen he began a thrift shopping spree that lasted 30 years. After moving to Los Angeles and enjoying careers as a fashion designer and classic car dealer, his life changed forever when he found a shoebox full of vintage Kodachrome slides, marked “Trip Across the United States 1957,” in a thrift shop. Collecting vintage slides soon became an obsession and he’s been collecting ever since. His archive is called the “Slibrary” and employs a “Slibrarian.”

Phoenix now performs retro slide shows across the country, featuring a wide variety of themes, from road trips and Southern California to his annual holiday celebrations. The Retro Holiday Slide Show is a sly, entertaining live comedy performance that celebrates mid-century holiday life and style. With his unstoppable enthusiasm and wry, eagle eye for the very best and most bizarre of his massive collection of Kodachrome slides, he supercharges the classic living room slide show into a hysterical celebration of American holiday life and style. It promises to be a 1950s/1960s New Years, Easter, 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas jubilee, all rolled into one!
His performances often include tributes to local landmarks, “mom and pop” business legends, and artisans and crafters. Phoenix plans to travel to Dayton early, in order to see the best retro sites in the Gem City and surrounding communities. The public is invited to share their favorite retro suggestions, by either posting photos to the museum’s Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/daytonartinstitute, or emailing them to info@daytonart.org.

The popular entertainer has shared his vintage images and culinary creations on TV with Conan O’Brien and Martha Stewart, and he is often heard on National Public Radio. The Los Angeles Times says, “Call him the King of Retro,” and LA Weekly anointed him “Kodachrome King”.

For more about the retro world of Charles Phoenix, including videos and vintage photos from the “slibrary,” visit his website, at www.charlesphoenix.com.

The Dayton Art Institute’s Arts Night Out series will present Charles Phoenix’s Retro Holiday Slide Show on Thursday, December 6, at 8 p.m. in the museum’s NCR Renaissance Auditorium. All seats are $30, with discounts available for groups (10 or more) and active military. Tickets may be purchased by calling 937-223-4ART (4278), at the museum's Visitor Services Desk during regular museum hours, or online at www.daytonartinstitute.org/artsnightout.

In conjunction with the show, The Dayton Art Institute’s Museum Store will host a book launch event, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. in the General Motors Entrance Rotunda, for local author Molly D. Campbell’s new book, Characters in Search of a Novel. Campbell and local illustrator Randy Palmer will be on hand for a book signing, and there will be readings and raffles. Visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/museumstore for more information.

For more about this and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to also connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook and Twitter for additional information and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. The galleries are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. With support from the Chase Endowment Fund, suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The Cafe and Museum Store have been moved to a temporary location on the lower level, and will be open during all regularly scheduled museum hours. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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