

Thanksgiving Jade Theater Showcases “Angel of Thanksgiving” Dance At the Royal Hawaiian

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honolulu, Hawaii, November 25, 2009: A showcase of jade and fine Asian arts is highlighted by a free dance performance of “The Angel of Thanksgiving” from IONA Contemporary Dance Theatre on Friday, November 27. Cina Cina and Jade Gallery Hawai'i sponsor the event at the Royal Hawaiian (A Luxury Collection Resort) from 12 noon to 8:30 pm. The IONA Angel dance performance begins at 5:00 pm.

IONA created the Angel based on a painting from Leonardo da Vinci, “The Annunciation”, in which the Angel Gabriel brings a message of hope to the Virgin Mary. Cheryl Flaharty and premier dancer Maile Baran-Primacio bring Angel Gabriel to life, with a painstaking recreation of the Leonardo painting, graceful movement and acting. Says Flaharty, Creative Director of IONA for the past twenty years, “Angels are messengers, from the divine to earth. Our Angel this Thanksgiving will bring a significant message for each person, and will present it to you.” The prayer messages will be given on small slips of paper to everyone who accepts them.

A detail of the original Leonardo da Vinci painting, alongside the modern IONA recreation featuring Baran-Primacio, may be seen at <http://www.iona360.com/Angel/>

The event is a benefit for IONA, well-known locally as the leading independent dance company in the Islands, beginning its 20th year of creative service to the community. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of fine jade -- bangles, bracelets, solid jade sculpture, earrings, necklaces and more – and some very unusual white nephrite, “mountain fat” jade; glowing Imperial jade, hand-carved with intricate skill – will go to IONA. Previews of many items are available on the Web, at <http://www.jadegalleryhawaii.com> .

Prices for jade will be discounted by at least 40% for this special event. Other fine arts items from Asia will be showcased by Cina Cina, one of the premier retailers at the Hotel. See <http://www.cinacinahawaii.com>

Jade has a mystique, and tales of its power fill the history of ancient China. It is said that when people were new on earth, Spirit helped them with a useful gift of rare beauty. He grasped the rainbow, forged it

into a jade axe, and cast it onto the earth. People discovered the axe, understood its origin, and ever since they have called jade The Stone of Heaven.

In Hotan China, jade is picked from the river. Long ago, young maidens would disrobe and walk naked in the river at night. Their feminine force (yin) attracted the male force (yang) of the jade, so the young girls could feel the pebbles between their toes, reach down and pick them up.

The public is invited to attend this free event -- to meet the Angel of Thanksgiving and explore the fascinating world of jade – November 27 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel (A Luxury Collection Resort) in Waikiki, Honolulu -- 2259 Kalakaua Ave. Doors open at 12:00 noon, and close at 8:30 pm. The IONA Angel will enter at 5:00 pm. The event is free, with complimentary tea and cookies, and parking validated by Cina Cina.

Press contact information: Ruby Zhou, 808-282-6196; on the Web: <http://www.jadegalleryhawaii.com>
Jade Gallery has showrooms in downtown Honolulu and on the North shore of O'ahu; showings by appointment.

###