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Dynamic Discussion and Live Music Series Returns —*First Fridays at the Natural History Museum*—

Monthly series presents environmental discussion, dancing and musical performances inspired by the museum’s acclaimed COLLAPSE? exhibition

Guests include: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond, theater director Peter Sellars, architect Lawrence Scarpa, as well as musicians Quetzal, Son de Madera con Zack de la Rocha, Rocky Dawuni and more

LOS ANGELES, Calif (September 16)—*First Fridays at the Natural History Museum* returns this fall with a series of monthly Friday-night events featuring discussion, dancing, film, fashion and musical performances on October 7, November 4, December 2 and January 6.

Created to bring the Museum’s special exhibitions to life in a dynamic and thought-provoking manner, this fall’s *First Fridays* programming focuses on COLLAPSE?. The exhibition, inspired by ideas presented in Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond’s latest book, explores the links between past and present civilizations and the environment. Each themed evening begins with a discussion led by some of today’s top thinkers, authors, artists and architects; followed late into the night by live performances by acclaimed musicians, dancers and DJs from around the world.

“*First Fridays at the Natural History Museum* enriches the Museum’s dialogue with the community on a variety of levels,” said Vanda Vitali, the Museum’s vice president of public programs. “Our upcoming *First Fridays* events not only engage audiences with the ideas presented in our COLLAPSE? exhibition, but also entertain guests with performances by artists inspired by relevant social and environmental concerns.”

First Fridays events include:

Friday, October 7 (7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.)

The Shape of Things to Come

Ecology meets style in this singular evening of ideas, couture and soulful grooves. A discussion on sustainable building and design, led by top “green architects” **Lawrence Scarpa**, co-founder of Livable Spaces, and U.C. Berkeley architecture professor **Sim Van der Ryn**, precedes an international eco-fashion show spotlighting some of today’s most fiercely inventive and environmentally conscious designers. A performance of truly earth-shattering music immediately follows: vocalist **Zack de la Rocha**, formerly of **Rage Against the Machine**, emerges for a one-of-a-kind performance with **Son de Madera**, the acclaimed son jarocho ensemble from Veracruz, Mexico. **Quetzal** performs their inimitable brand of impassioned, neo-traditionalist Chicano music.

Discussion: Lawrence Scarpa, Sim Van der Ryn, Terrence McNally (moderator)
Fashion Show: Jose Bello, Shannon Figgins, Quyen Ha, Yae Jin Kim, Tae Kyuon Lee, Jerry Locay
Locay, Elias Luna, Anna Mkhitarian, Shaun Samson, Kok Wai Wong, Petra Yates
(designers)
Jim Watterson (producer), Margo Upham (emcee)
Performances: Son de Madera con Zack de la Rocha, Quetzal
Dublab DJ: Nobody
Video DJ: Mekanix

Friday, November 4, 2005 (6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.)

Reflecting Spirit

Titled after **Edgy Lee**’s acclaimed film, this evening examines man’s interactions—both physical and cultural—with the land and sea. After a screening of “Reflecting Spirit,” Canadian author and philosopher **Mark Kingwell** moderates a diverse group of land-use and conservation experts in a discussion that explores land stewardship versus land ownership and Hawaiian and Californian approaches to land-management and related issues. Next comes a joyous celebration of Hawaiian music and dance as three slack-key guitar masters join forces with a hula icon and her troupe of dancer-musicians. California funk machine **ALO**, fresh from their tour with Jack Johnson, concludes the evening with their unique brand of dance and music.

Film: “The Hawaiians – Reflecting Spirit,” director-producer: Edgy Lee
Discussion: Congresswoman Hilda Solis, Neil Hannahs, Kalikolihau Hannahs, Mariane Hannahs,
Kellen Paik, Woody Smeck, Mark Kingwell
Performances: Slack-key guitar masters George Kahumoku, Jr., Keoki Kahumoku and Daniel Ho; Hālau
Ka Pa Hula O Wahineali’I (Auntie Clarice’s Hula Halau); ALO (Animal Liberation
Orchestra)
Dublab DJ: Projections
Video DJ: Mekanix

Friday, December 2, 2005 (7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.)

Different Lands, Global Issues

Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Jared Diamond**, whose latest book inspired the Museum’s COLLAPSE? exhibition, spearheads a provocative roundtable discussion, including renowned theater and opera director **Peter Sellars**, on energy, climate change and ecological survival. The evening’s music begins with a thunderous drum performance by L.A.’s own **Kinnara Taiko**, after which authentic reggae music fills The African Mammals Hall as Ghanaian

musician **Rocky Dawuni** takes the stage to move both hearts and feet. The captivating soul of **The Rebirth**, whose potent chemistry is the stuff of dance-floor legend, concludes the evening.

Discussion: Jared Diamond, John Merson, Peter Gleick, Peter Sellars
Performances: Kinnara Taiko, Rocky Dawuni, The Rebirth
Dublab DJs: Carlos Nino and Hoseh
Video DJ: Mekanix

Friday, January 6, 2006 (7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m)

Forest Songs – Earth Spirits

TreePeople founder **Andy Lipkis**, **Jagmohan Maini** (credited with coining the term “Ecotourism”) and L.A.’s own **Hope Tschopik Schneider** explore conservation issues around the globe. **On Ensemble’s** boundary-pushing reinvention of *taiko* drumming, **Dr. Riddims & click.BOOM**, as well as **Eleanor Academia** and her all-star rock band **EaPi**, provide the evening’s dance music.

The series concludes with a Blessing Ceremony organized by artist **Linda Vallejo** and Native American tribal leaders.

Discussion: Andy Lipkis, Jagmohan Maini, Hope Tschopik Schneider
Performances: On Ensemble, Dr. Riddims & click.BOOM, EaPi
Dublab DJs: Frosty and Kutmah
Video DJ: Mekanix

Ticket Information

First Fridays at the Natural History Museum

Adults and non-members	\$15
Museum members and Students with ID	\$12

Tickets include admission to the Museum and can be purchased by calling 866-468-3399 or online at www.nhm.org/firstfridays.

About The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County serves more than 1 million visitors annually and is a national leader in research, exhibitions and education. The second oldest cultural institution in Los Angeles, first opening its doors in 1913, the Museum seeks to inspire wonder, discovery and responsibility for the natural and cultural worlds. It has amassed one of the world’s most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history—with more than 33 million objects, some as old as 500 million years.

First Fridays, which began in September 2004, is a dynamic discussion and performance series at the Natural History Museum. Each event is designed to highlight the Museum’s current special exhibit.

Located at 900 Exposition Boulevard, the Museum is open seven days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$6.50 for students and seniors; and \$2 for children 5-12. For 24-hour Museum information please call (213) 763-DINO or visit the Museum’s Web site at www.nhm.org.