

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

No. 72

NOTICE TO EDITOR

COVERAGE INVITED

TO

SPECIAL PRESS PARTY

LAUNCHING

FREE PARK AND ENTERTAINMENT

AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC EVERY WEEKEND

PREVIEW WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 6:00 P.M.

REHEARSAL OF ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE STAGED BY PERFORMERS

TWO P.M. SAME DAY

WEEKENDS OPEN TO PUBLIC START THIS FRIDAY, JUNE 2

SEE INFORMATION ATTACHED

FREE ENTERTAINMENT IN MAGNIFICENT SCULPTURE GARDEN OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Museum of Modern Art will open its Sculpture Garden and provide free entertainment every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening starting next weekend, June 2, and continuing through the fall. The first program of ethnological entertainment features Naid Sofian, a classical Egyptian bellydancer, and other dancers from India and Japan.

The Sculpture Garden is a magnificent oasis in the heart of New York, filled with famous sculptures by Rodin, Renoir, Moore, Calder and Maillol, with reflecting pools and fountains, weeping beech trees and beds of ivy. The Garden will provide a backdrop for a variety of entertainment under the direction of Ed Bland, who produced the Museum's Jazz in the Garden series for the past five years. There will be folk singing, dancers of many nationalities, presentations of video tapes, poetry readings, and many other performances.

The Garden will be open from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and entertainment is scheduled for eight o'clock. Visitors may enter through the 54th Street gate of the Museum, just west of Fifth Avenue. The Garden is open through the courtesy of Mobil Foundation.

The initial program includes, besides Miss Sofian from Egypt, Asha Devi in Hindu dances, accompanied by Bihari Sharma, leading male dancer of Manipur, India, who plays six musical instruments. Miyoko Watanabe will perform classical Japanese Kabuki dances.

Designed by Philip C. Johnson, the Garden, named in honor of one of the Museum's founders, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, was redesigned and opened in 1964. Two years later it received the Bard First Honor Award from the City Club of New York as "a distinguished oasis for pedestrians offering a variety of spaces for the enjoyment of sculpture and just plain walking." Now this unique cityscape providing an invitation to tranquil meditation

(more)

also will serve as another free park with pleasurable entertainment available to the New York public and visitors to the city.

Summergarden will be free every weekend through October 1. There will be no entertainment Sunday evenings, but the Garden will remain open and refreshments will be available. Summergarden was initiated last year under a grant from Mobil Foundation, Inc. and attracted more than 50,000 people. Mobil will sponsor Summer-garden for the second successive year.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, or Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, or Mark Segal, Assistant, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019.
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