



**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ACQUIRES DIRECTOR DAVID O. RUSSELL'S WORK FOR ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION**

**BENEFIT HONORING FILMMAKER SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10, 2002**

**NEW YORK, February 28, 2002** *A Work in Progress: An Evening with David O. Russell*, hosted by the Department of Film and Media, the Film and Media Trustee Committee, and The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art, will take place on April 10, 2002. This inaugural film benefit will honor the critically acclaimed writer/director's work, his creative vision, and his dedication to the art of filmmaking. Russell, a native New Yorker, is best known for his feature films, *Spanking the Monkey* (1994), *Flirting with Disaster* (1996), and *Three Kings* (1999). As a result of the generous donation of the filmmaker's prints by New Line Cinema, Miramax Films, and Warner Bros., this event also marks the acquisition of these films for the Museum's collection.

This celebrity event will benefit the Department of Film and Media and the Museum's young patron group, The Junior Associates. The committee in support of the benefit includes **Alan Alda, Wes Anderson, Patricia Arquette, Sofia Coppola, Spike Jonze, John Leguizamo, Mary Tyler Moore, Edward Norton, Alexander Payne, Ben Stiller, Lily Tomlin, and Mark Wahlberg.** **Todd McCarthy**, *Variety's* chief film critic, and **Elvis Mitchell**, film critic with the *New York Times*, are writing essays for the evening's program

The evening will begin with a champagne toast, followed by a conversation with the filmmaker. The conversation will be moderated by **Lily Tomlin** and highlighted by film clips from Russell's work as well as clips from films that have inspired him. This program will be held in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1 and will be the last film benefit held at MoMA prior to the relocation of exhibitions during its Building Project. MoMA QNS will open June 29 in the new facility located in Long Island City, Queens, and the midtown Manhattan building is scheduled to reopen in 2005.

Following guest appearances and celebrity speakers, the evening will conclude with a late supper buffet

and cocktail reception held at Sette MoMA, the Museum's restaurant, with DJ and dancing. The Museum has also programmed a film series entitled **A Work in Progress: The Films of David O. Russell**, to showcase all three of these films at the Museum's theaters from April 25 to 27.

"The Department of Film and Media, The Junior Associates, and the Film and Media Trustee Committee of The Museum of Modern Art are delighted to inaugurate an annual event in honor of a filmmaker whose career is at an exciting moment," says Mary Lea Bandy, Chief Curator of the Department of Film and Media. "Such a recognized talent is David O. Russell." The Junior Associates have supported the Museum's Film and Media programs and have funded the acquisition of new works by young independent film artists.

A Work in Progress: An Evening with David O. Russell is made possible by Regency Enterprises, Warner Bros., New Line Cinema, Endeavor, James Family Foundation, and Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown.

Additional generous support is provided by Miramax Films, Castle Rock Entertainment, and *Vanity Fair*.

Special thanks to Sette MoMA, SKYY Vodka, and *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Travel arrangements by Altour International. Hotel accommodations courtesy of The Waldorf Towers.

Gift bag contributions provided by Village Roadshow Pictures and *index* magazine.

Tickets are available from the Department of Special Programming and Events, 212/708-9680.

David O. Russell is available for interviews.

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### **Press Contacts:**

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### **Public Information:**

**The Museum of Modern Art**, 11 West 53 Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues

The public may call 212/708-9400 for detailed Museum information

Hours: 10:30 a.m.–5:45 p.m. daily; 10:30 a.m.–8:15 p.m. Friday; Closed Wednesday.

Admission: Through May 21, 2002: \$12; \$8.50 students with ID and people 65 and over.

Free for members and children under 16 accompanied by an adult.

Friday, 4:30 p.m.–8:15 p.m. pay-what-you-wish

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**The Museum of Modern Art**, 11 West 53 Street, New York, closes May 21, 2002.

**MoMA QNS**, 33 Street at Queens Boulevard, Long Island City, Queens, opens June 29, 2002.