



# TROPHÉE DES ARTS GALA 2009

Founded in 1898, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) is the leading French language and cultural center in the United States. Its mission is to be the innovative cultural and educational destination for New Yorkers eager to explore the diversity of French cultures.

FIAF presents a wide range of sophisticated programming in both French and English, offering films, lectures, art exhibitions, and live performances of music, theater, dance, and more throughout the year in the FIAF Gallery, Florence Gould Hall, Le Skyroom, and Tinker Auditorium.

Each Fall, the inter-disciplinary contemporary arts festival *Crossing the Line* presents boundary-breaking works by artists who are transforming cultural practices on both sides of the Atlantic. The Spring brings *World Nomads*, a festival dedicated to exploring the exchange of ideas, artistic expression, and style throughout the Francophone world.

FIAF's historic building, recently renovated and decorated by the well known theater set designer Richard Peduzzi, is a fully active educational and cultural New York institution. The Haskell Library, designed by renowned architect Michael Graves, houses the most comprehensive collection of French works in the United States. The Language Center, with 6,000 students, is also the largest in the country and offers instruction in French at all levels.

The Trophée des Arts Gala raises funds to support FIAF's educational and cultural programs, fostering better understanding between the French and American peoples.

## **Under the high patronage of**

**His Excellency Mr. Pierre Vimont**

Ambassador of France to the United States

**His Excellency Mr. Gérard Araud**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of France to the United Nations

**Mrs. Kareen Rispal**

Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of France  
and Mr. Nicolas de Rivière

**Mr. Philippe Lalliot**

Consul General of France in New York  
and Mrs. Laurence Folliot-Lalliot

**His Excellency Mr. Moussa Makan Camara**

Permanent Observer of Francophonie  
to the United States and Mrs. Moussa Makan Camara

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french institute  
alliance française

**Dinner Chairs**

**Alain Coblenze, Lorenzo D. Weisman,  
and the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)**

**Request the pleasure of your company at the**

**TROPHÉE DES ARTS GALA 2009**

**Honoring**

**ROBERT WILSON**

Theater and Visual Artist, Founder of the Watermill Center

**Trophée des Arts**

**BERNARD POUSSOT**

Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Wyeth

**Pilier d'Or**

**ISABELLE HUPPERT**

Presenter

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

7pm Cocktails and Silent Auction

8pm Dinner and Live Auction

Black Tie

Reply Card Enclosed

**THE PLAZA**

Fifth Avenue and Central Park South, New York City

## **The 2009 Trophée des Arts awarded to**

### **ROBERT WILSON**

Susan Sontag has said of Wilson's work "it has the signature of a major artistic creation. I can't think of any body of work as large or as influential." After the Paris premiere of *Deafman Glance* in 1971, French Surrealist Louis Aragon wrote of Wilson, "he is what we, from whom Surrealism was born, dreamed would come after us and go beyond us." Until today Wilson has presented and premiered over 40 works in France and has worked with every major institution in Paris. Wilson has recently created a series of high definition video portraits, the VOOOM Portraits, that travel to major art institutions around the world. In 1992 he founded the Watermill Center, a laboratory for performance as a unique environment for young and emerging artists from around the world to explore new ideas. Wilson has been named "Commandeur des arts et des lettres" by the French Minister of Culture.

Established in 1992, the Trophée des Arts is awarded each year to a distinguished artist or cultural icon who has exemplified our organization's mission of French-American friendship and cross-cultural exchange.

## **The 2009 Pilier d'Or awarded to**

### **BERNARD POUSSOT**

Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Wyeth, is the strategic mastermind behind the recent blockbuster merger of the major biopharmaceutical company into Pfizer. Beginning as head of Wyeth France, and then of Wyeth Europe, Mr. Poussot had a remarkable career at Wyeth globally. It was his strategic foresight to capitalize early on the potential of biotechnology, as well as his commitment to scientific innovation, which positioned Wyeth to become a leading biotechnology and vaccines company. Bernard Poussot's successful career at the helm of a Fortune 500 American company is a shining example of the capacity for success of French nationals in global companies and in the United States. Mr. Poussot is on the board of the Eisenhower Fellowship and the World Affairs Council. He was awarded the French Legion of Honor by President Jacques Chirac.

The Pilier d'Or recognizes a leading business figure, diplomat, or philanthropist for outstanding contributions to the French-American Community.

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