

For immediate release:

**Stars come out to celebrate
Award Winning Photographer**

HOWARD L. BINGHAM

as he is

**HONORED WITH THIS YEAR'S
OUR TIME AWARD**

Monday, April 13, 2009

Skirball Center for the Performing Arts at NYU

**Featuring the
OUR TIME THEATRE COMPANY & SPECIAL GUESTS**

Honorary Chairs:

Muhammad and Lonnie Ali, Bill Cosby and Camille Cosby and Carly Simon

Co-Chairs: Scott M. Delman, Fred Nelson, Kathleen A. & Dr. Joseph F. Popovich and Liz Tuccillo



On Monday, April 13, 2009 Our Time Theatre Company (Taro Alexander, *Artistic Director*, Everett Bradley, *Musical Director*), will be honoring "the world's greatest" biographer and photographer, Howard L. Bingham. Our Time Theatre Company a non-profit organization dedicated to providing an artistic home for young people who stutter, will hold its Seventh Annual Benefit Gala continuing its tradition of honoring a person who has been an inspiration to those that stutter. Mr. Bingham has spent his illustrious career capturing historic events, places, and people, most notably serving as Muhammad Ali's personal photographer. Mr. Bingham was the first black photographer to work on a Hollywood Camera Guild crew. His photographs have been published in magazines and periodicals including: Life, Look, Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, People, Ebony and others. Mr. Bingham has not allowed his stuttering to hold him back from achieving his dreams. Celebrated actor Jeffrey Wright, will present Mr. Bingham with this year's Our Time Award.

For this star-studded event Carly Simon will serve as the Honorary Chair with Co-Chairs: Scott M. Delman, Fred Nelson, Kathleen A. & Dr. Joseph F. Popovich and Liz Tuccillo (*He's Just Not That Into You*) and will be hosted by the Our Time Kids. This year's benefit will take place on Monday, April 13, 2009 with an all-star cast at the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts at NYU at 7PM. Celebrities will perform original work written by and with the young people of Our Time Theatre Company.

Participating artists include Lauren Ambrose, Talia Balsam, David Alan Basche, Tevin Campbell, Michael Cerveris, Maddie Corman, Nadia Dajani, Ned Eisenberg, Dominic Fumusa, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Lauren Graham, Kate Jennings Grant, Kathryn Grody, Gregory Allen Howard, Adriane Lenox, Ilana Levine, Tiffany McElroy, Matthew Modine, Kelli O'Hara, John Oliver, Austin Pendleton, Rosie Perez, Alysia Reiner, Ron Rifkin, Alice Ripley, Ken Roberson, Ramon Rodriguez, Daphne Rubin-Vega, Amy Ryan, Peter Sarsgaard, Ed Sherin, John Slattery, Fisher Stevens, Mary Testa, Callie Thorne, Bill Withers, Jeffrey Wright and Cast Members from Spring Awakening and many, many more.

Our Time's creative programming brings positive change to kids who stutter, helping them to reach their true potential and integrate more fully into the everyday world. This organization is unique in its year-round effort to work directly with youth who stutter, creating a safe and nurturing community that uses artistic expression to encourage self-acceptance. At Our Time, kids who stutter transform the fear and shame associated with stuttering into confidence and self-esteem. All New York City programs are offered to young people who stutter free of charge.

Our Time members meet on Saturdays to learn acting, playwriting, songwriting, singing, and movement. They work together to create their own plays and music that are presented professionally in full-scale productions in Off-Broadway theaters. An additional opportunity exists for three to four senior members of the teen group who are given the challenge of writing and directing their own one-act plays utilizing professional writers and actors. In the summer, the company travels and performs at national and international stuttering conferences. Camp Our Time is a new growth initiative that incorporates the company's existing program into a week-long camping experience that immerses young people who stutter and their siblings, family, and friends from across the country and internationally in the supportive environment that Our Time fosters year-round.

Since 2002, the Our Time Award has been presented to one exceptional individual who has improved the quality of life and been an inspiration to people who stutter. This year, Our Time's deserving honoree will be **Howard L. Bingham**. Born in Mississippi in 1939, **Howard L. Bingham** is the recipient of the prestigious 1997 APS Award for Excellence. Mr. Bingham had no formal photography training: rather, he learned photography "on the job" working as a photographer at *The Sentinel*, a small black newspaper in Los Angeles. On one of his assignments for *The Sentinel* he met a young heavyweight fighter, Cassius Clay. That assignment would be the beginning of a lifetime friendship between Mr. Bingham and the greatest sports figure of this century, Muhammad Ali. Aside from being the personal photo-biographer of Muhammad Ali, Mr. Bingham was a contract photographer for Life and *Sports Illustrated*, with photo essays appearing in *Look*, *Newsweek*, *Playboy* and *Ebony*. Mr. Bingham, who refers to himself as the "Forrest Gump" of photojournalism because he just keeps "popping up as history is being made," has used his camera to document 30 years of America's growing pains.

The 7th Annual Our Time Benefit Gala honoring Howard L. Bingham

April 13, 2008 at 7PM

Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts is located at New York University,
566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Square South.

For tickets and information, please call (212) 414-9696 or email gala2009@ourtimetheatre.org

Individual Tickets for dinner and performance are \$300 - \$1,000.

Tickets for performance only are \$100.

Tables for dinner (which include the performance) are \$10,000/\$25,000.

Visit www.ourtimetheatre.org for more information.

Your coverage is appreciated.

Taro Alexander as well as the performers are available for interview pertaining to OUR TIME and this event.

Press Contact: Joe Trentacosta/Springer Associates PR/ 212 354 4660
joe@springerassociatespr.com

photo credit: Douglas Kirkland

Muhammad and Lonnie Ali

Bill Cosby and Camille Cosby

Carly Simon

Co-Chairs

Scott M. Delman
Fred Nelson
Kathleen A. & Dr. Joseph F. Popovich
Liz Tuccillo

Participating Artists

(scheduled to appear at time of printing)

Lauren Ambrose
Talia Balsam
David Alan Basche
Tevin Campbell
Michael Cerveris
Maddie Corman
Nadia Dajani
Ned Eisenberg
Dominic Fumusa
Lauren Graham
Kate Jennings Grant
Kathryn Grody
Gregory Allen Howard
Adriane Lenox
Ilana Levine
Tiffany McElroy
Matthew Modine
Kelli O'Hara
John Oliver
Rosie Perez
Alysia Reiner
Ron Rifkin
Alice Ripley
Ken Roberson
Ramon Rodriguez
Daphne Rubin-Vega
Amy Ryan
Ed Sherin
John Slattery
Fisher Stevens
Mary Testa
Callie Thorne
Bill Withers
Jeffrey Wright
Cast members from Spring Awakening
and the youth of Our Time