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CONTACT: Geoffrey Baum
213-821-1491

SIX LEADING ARTS JOURNALISTS TO INAUGURATE NEW PROGRAM AT USC ANNEBERG

LOS ANGELES – Six outstanding arts journalists have been selected as the inaugural class of fellows in the USC Annenberg Getty Arts Journalism Program.

Funded by a grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust, the USC Annenberg program seeks to improve the quality of arts journalism by bringing mid-career journalists to Los Angeles for three weeks of seminars with established and emerging artists and heads of cultural institutions. The program begins April 6.

The six 2002 USC Annenberg Getty Arts Journalism Program fellows are:

- **Marianne Combs**, Minnesota Public Radio, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Combs is writer, producer and frequent host of *Word of Mouth: A Radio Guide to the Arts*. The highly-regarded half-hour program reaches a network of 31 MPR stations and more than 600,000 weekly listeners. She started her career in world news for MPR.
- **Shaun de Waal**, *Mail & Guardian*, Johannesburg, South Africa. De Waal is the weekly newspaper's literary editor and film critic. He has also served as the paper's arts editor. Co-editor of two anthologies of journalism and founder of South Africa's first gay talk radio program, de Waal has been covering the arts for 15 years.
- **Tim Griffin**, *Time Out New York*, New York City. Griffin is the weekly magazine's art editor and writer. Griffin is widely viewed as one of New York's top young art critics. He is the author of the upcoming *Contamination*, a collection of essays on art, architecture, design, technology and fashion. He is also a founding staff member of *ArtByte: The Magazine of Digital Culture*.
- **Johanna Keller**, freelance writer on music and literature, New York City. A frequent contributor to *The New York Times Arts & Leisure* section, Keller also guest-edited a special section on music for the paper in 1998. She is a former editor of *Chamber Music* magazine, a bi-monthly that won six national awards for excellence in arts journalism under her editorship. In 2001, she co-edited a book about California poet Carolyn Kizer.
- **Peggy McGlone**, *The Star-Ledger*, Newark, New Jersey. McGlone is the daily newspaper's arts news-business reporter. Four years ago, her editor created McGlone's position to cover the arts in New Jersey as a business writer. She tracks trends, covers government and private funding patterns, and explains behind-the-scene developments in the state's major cultural institutions.

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- **Michael Norman**, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, Ohio. Norman is the daily newspaper's art and entertainment editor, overseeing an editorial staff of 20. He is a respected advocate for the arts whose career started in the traditional news beat. He spent seven years as the Plain Dealer's pop music critic. His writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*.

The fellows were chosen from an international pool of 58 applicants. As a result, the selection process was extremely competitive, according to Sasha Anawalt, the newly-named director of the USC Annenberg Getty Arts Journalism Program.

"The level of writing, thinking and questioning on the part of the potential fellows was exceptional," said Anawalt. "We are looking forward to bringing this remarkable group to Los Angeles."

A veteran arts journalist, Anawalt is the author of *The Joffrey Ballet: Robert Joffrey and the Making of an American Dance Company* and contributor to *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and KCRW-FM. Working with Anawalt is Terry LeMoncheck, an arts administration professional who most recently worked with the Mark Taper Forum.

"With the growing importance of cultural institutions and the arts in Los Angeles and the world, we are delighted to be able to play a role in enriching arts reporting and criticism," said Geoffrey Cowan, dean of the USC Annenberg School. "Thanks to the Getty's leadership and generosity, we expect this program to have an impact for years to come."

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic organization devoted to the visual arts that includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Grant Program. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs are located at the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

The USC Annenberg School for Communication is one of the nation's leading institutions devoted to the study of journalism and communication, and their impact on politics, culture and society. With an enrollment of more than 1,500 graduate and undergraduate students, USC Annenberg prepares students for academic and professional success in these fields.