

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT APLENTY IN HISTORIC ROSWELL
Abundance of art galleries, theatre and festivals lets visitors get their A and E on

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROSWELL, GA – September, 2007 – Historic Roswell, a savvy suburb located on the northern banks of the Chattahoochee River and just 20 minutes away from Atlanta, Georgia, has a dynamic arts community. Visitors can explore nearly three dozen art galleries and working artist studios, enjoy great theatre and celebrate visual and oral arts traditions at two of the Southeast's most famous festivals.

GALLERIES GALORE!

Hop the Historic District to see art created in every medium imaginable. Judie Raiford, a jewelry artist who owns the Raiford Gallery, has created one of the top 100 art galleries in the United States with her breezy space given rustic structure by way of gleaming wood floors, loft and beams. Color and drama come compliments of the abundance of glassworks hanging from the rafters, as well as metalworks, jewelry, furniture, painting, sculpture and ceramics artfully arranged throughout and which pick up the light from every available surface. About 400 North American artists are represented.

The Ann Jackson Gallery, the oldest in the Historic District, is a premiere Dr. Seuss dealer with many of his works of art including sculptures. Soda Salon is a unique fusion of artistry with hair stylists creating high-end coiffures while gallery shows and special exhibits present artists' paintings, art glass, jewelry and sculpture in a contemporary salon setting.

With an emphasis on the works of Georgia artists, The Lola Art Gallery & Gift Shop exhibits different styles of paintings, sculpture, photography and decorative items. The American Sampler carries the works of many Georgia and southern folk artists and is the go-to boutique for Southern primitive pottery. It's where the locals bring their out-of-town guests for handmade American country and folk art and furnishings.

At the Shoppes of Plumtree Village and its SLM Studio/Gallery, a "south of France vista" is spread over a two-acre parcel of green space; inside are the figurative mixed media paintings and

sculptures of artist/gallery owner Sandra Milton. The works of regional and nationally renowned artists are found at The Taylor Kinzel Gallery, including original contemporary paintings, mixed media sculpture, art glass and unique handmade jewelry.

THE PLAY'S THE THING

Visitors may enjoy the performing arts with an evening of footlight fun at the Georgia Ensemble Theatre, a professional theatre housed in the Roswell Cultural Arts Center. Each year from September through May the theatre brings a rich lineup of classics, comedies and timeless and topical favorites to the stage, including hits like "I Hate Hamlet" and "God's Man in Texas," living up to its reputation of presenting quality and diversity in its shows.

The Kudzu Playhouse presents community theatre at its best with a rousing roster of comedies, musicals and family favorites that has included such theatre darlings as "Barefoot in the Park," "Forever Plaid" and "The Tale of Peter Rabbit." With year-round mainstage shows and eight children's productions, The Kudzu is dedicated to showcasing the talents of both professional and amateur actors from the Greater Atlanta area in the intimate ambience of its two stages: Stage One seats 118 while Stage Two accommodates 165.

FESTIVALS FETE THE ARTS

The oral art of storytelling is celebrated annually at the award-winning Roswell Magnolia Storytelling Festival held in June. Selected as "Festival of The Year" by the Atlanta Metro Travel Association and a "Top Twenty" event in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society, it unfolds in grand style on the grounds of Bulloch Hall, a Greek Revival mansion built in 1840 by one of Roswell's first settlers and site of the wedding of President Teddy Roosevelt's parents.

Visitors may pull up a chair beneath a tent, spread a picnic and enjoy traditional music, attend workshops and participate in open-mic time. Captivating the audience are national and internationally recognized tellers, along with outstanding regional and local tellers.

Celebrating art for arts sake is the Annual Roswell Arts Festival, presented in September in the Historic Town Square. Visitors will find a variety of crafters and artists, some showing their work for the first time, others making a living through their art. There are artists working in oils, watercolors, acrylics and mixed media, charcoals, pencil and photography and those crafting

jewelry, turning wood and throwing pottery. Live music adds a spirited beat to the fun.

From working artist studios and galleries to theatre and festivals, Roswell has plenty of opportunities for arts and entertainment seekers to get their A and E on.

Located on the northern banks of the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County, Roswell, Georgia's sixth largest city, is in an area whose history was impacted and shaped by the 1828 discovery of gold in north Georgia, the opening of cotton and woolen mills known collectively as the Roswell Manufacturing Company a decade later and the occupation by Union troops in July of 1864 on their march to Atlanta. Today, Roswell thrives with working artist galleries and studios and shopping and theatre in an area rich in historic and natural attractions. For more details, contact the Historic Roswell Convention & Visitors Bureau by calling toll-free 1.800.776.7935 or by visiting www.cvb.roswell.ga.us

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