



## THE BROOKE JACKMAN FOUNDATION COMMEMORATES THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 WITH THIRD ANNUAL READ-A-THON

READINGS BY ROSIE PEREZ, MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY OF SPIDER-MAN: TURN OFF THE DARK,  
CARE BEARS ON FIRE, WNYC'S JOHN SCHAEFER, READING RAINBOW'S TWILA LIGGETT,  
CHILDREN'S AUTHOR STEPHANIE CALMENSON

DEBUT READING OF

"ABC, MY FAMILY & ME: AN ALPHABET BOOK BY THE KIDS OF THE BROOKE JACKMAN FOUNDATION"  
COLLECTION OF STORIES AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY AT-RISK CHILDREN IN NYC

**New York, NY (August 2012)** – In commemoration of 9/11 and its own 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Brooke Jackman Foundation (BJF), a non-profit organization that promotes literacy for at-risk children in the greater New York area, will hold its third annual **Brooke Jackman Foundation Read-a-thon – A Celebration of Literacy and Hope** on **Saturday, September 8, 2012, 12:00-1:30 pm, just steps from Ground Zero** at the **Winter Garden in the World Financial Center** in Lower Manhattan. Hosted by Arts Brookfield, this free public event for children and families will celebrate the positive, transformative power of literacy.

This year's Read-a-thon will feature guest readers from **Rosie Perez**, the native New Yorker who was most recently seen in Showtime's "Nurse Jackie" and has three new movies in the works, starring alongside such actors as Brad Pitt, Sharon Stone and Maggie Gyllenhaal. The **members of the company of "Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark,"** who are avid readers in the SAG Foundation's BookPALS program, will also donate time from their busy weekend matinee schedule to read some of BJF's favorite stories to the children before they swing back up to their Midtown theater. Also reading will be Izzy and Sophie from the popular teen rock band, **Care Bears on Fire**; WNYC's **John Schaefer**; children's author **Stephanie Calmenson**; and **Dr. Twila Liggett**, creator of the beloved TV series *Reading Rainbow*. Also expected to read will be some of the uniformed heroes of 9/11.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Read-a-thon will also debut readings from a moving and delightful, newly published collection of stories and illustrations from the kids in the Foundation's programs, called *ABC, My Family & Me: An Alphabet Book by the Kids of the Brooke Jackman Foundation*. All proceeds from the sale of the book support the work of BJF.

"For more than a decade, we have sponsored literacy programs across New York City, and the Read-a-thon allows for all of our children to gather and share their love of learning," said Erin Jackman, Brooke's sister and BJF's Executive Director. "Just as the rising of the Freedom Tower marks the progress that New York City has made since 9/11, the growing popularity of the Brooke Jackman Foundation Read-a-thon and the publication of our first book of stories and illustrations from the kids in our programs marks the progress that we are making in advancing youth literacy."

The Brooke Jackman Foundation was created 11 years ago to honor Brooke Jackman, a bright and compassionate 23-year-old who was killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks before achieving her dream of becoming a social worker. Brooke was an avid reader, and her passion and commitment to literacy and helping children spurred the Jackman family to create BJF as her living legacy – turning tragedy and despair into hope for a better world. Since 2001, the Brooke Jackman Foundation has donated nearly 100,000 books and almost 15,000 Brooke Packs, backpacks filled with books and school supplies, to children and families in need. BJF has established four libraries, as well as a number of after-school literacy programs, at sites across all five boroughs, including homeless shelters and Family Justice Centers for victims of domestic violence and crime in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. The Brooke Jackman Foundation Read-a-thon recognizes the hope born from the tragic events of that day and celebrates the resiliency of New York and its children.

For more information, please visit [www.brookejackmanfoundation.org](http://www.brookejackmanfoundation.org).

### **Arts Brookfield**

Since 1988 more than 3.5 million people have enjoyed over 2,500 cultural events at the World Financial Center presented by Arts Brookfield, one of the largest free, year-round, privately funded performing and visual arts programs on the east coast.

As an initiative of Brookfield Office Properties, the owner, developer and manager of premier office properties in the United States, Canada and Australia, Arts Brookfield animates public spaces in major cities across North America including New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Denver and Toronto. Brookfield's portfolio is comprised of interests in 110 properties totaling 78 million square feet in the downtown cores of New York, Washington, D.C., Houston, Los Angeles, Denver, Toronto, Calgary, Ottawa, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, making it the global leader in the ownership and management of office assets. For more information, please visit [artsbrookfield.com](http://artsbrookfield.com).

### **Care Bears on Fire, Performers**

These Brooklyn high-schoolers have built a reputation for playing old-school punk rock with a modern message and a sense of humor. The members of Care Bears on Fire, Sophie (lead vocals, guitar), Izzy (drums) and Jena (bass), have made names for themselves on radio and TV, most notably on *Late Night with David Letterman*, and have played the festival circuit from South by Southwest to Lollapalooza. After the success of their first album *Get Over It!* (S-Curve Records), the pressure was on to drop out of school. Instead, Care Bears on Fire chose to stay in the classroom. Now, they are hitting their stride in high school, and as their new EP *Girls Like it Loud* demonstrates, are hitting it with a vengeance.

### **John Schaefer, Reader**

John Schaefer, radio host and music writer, has hosted WNYC's *Soundcheck* since the show's inception in 2002. He has also hosted and produced WNYC's radio series *New Sounds* since 1982 and the *New Sounds Live* concert series since 1986. Schaefer has written a number of books about music. He was also contributing editor for *Spin* and *Ear* magazines, and his liner notes appear on more than 100 recordings. In 2003, Schaefer was honored with the American Music Center's prestigious Letter of Distinction for his "substantial contributions to advancing the field of contemporary American music in the United States and abroad." In May 2006, *New York* magazine cited Schaefer as one of "the people whose ideas, power and sheer will are changing New York" in its "Influentials" issue. In 2008, he began blogging daily for the *Soundcheck* page at [wnyc.org](http://wnyc.org).

### **Twila C. Liggett, Ph.D., Reader**

Dr. Twila C. Liggett is the Founder and Executive Producer of the outstanding PBS Children's TV series, *Reading Rainbow*, which aired on PBS from 1983 to 2009. Under her leadership, the series won over 160 awards, including 26 national Daytime Emmys, 10 of which are in the Outstanding Children's Series category. A former elementary classroom teacher and administrator, Dr. Liggett holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction and Administration and is currently a Professor of Education specializing in literacy and the arts at Marymount Manhattan College. She is on the Advisory Board for the Brooke Jackman Foundation.

### **Stephanie Calmenson, Reader**

Stephanie Calmenson is the author of many popular books for children, including PBS StoryTime's *Dinner at the Panda Palace*; *Jazzmatazz*; *Late for School*; *The Principal's New Clothes*; *Welcome Baby! Baby Rhymes for Baby Times*; and *Good for You! Toddler Rhymes for Toddler Times*. She is also known for her highly-acclaimed books about dogs, including *Rosie, A Visting Dog's Story*, which Smithsonian called "one of the outstanding nonfiction titles of the year" and *May I Pet Your Dog?*, a Horn Book Fanfare selection and an ALA award-winning video. Stephanie is on the Advisory Board for the Brooke Jackman Foundation.

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