

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOLLOW THE PATH TO THE PARK
NORTH SIDE CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS TEAM UP WITH VISITING ARTIST TO
HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY AMENITIES**

Pittsburgh, PA, April 2, 2009—Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild (MCG) Youth & Arts and the New Hazlett Theater are proud to present a special collaborative project, which will bring internationally-renown performance and mixed media artist Julia Mandle to Pittsburgh. From a workshop with MCG after-school students, to a public performance highlighting cultural amenities on the North Side, to an exhibition at MCG’s satellite gallery in the Cultural District—Mandle will share her artistic practice as means to initiate exploration of topics surrounding art and activism.

Through her artwork, Julia Mandle intends to create moments of pause that enhance audience members’ awareness of their environment or that slow down the fast pace of contemporary urban living. Often occurring in public space, Mandle works within a performative frame but blends modes of fashion design, architecture, sculpture, installation, and craft.

For four days, from April 6–9, Mandle will guide MCG after-school students in the creation of the coolest new footwear: chalk shoes! Then representatives from fellow North Side organizations will join the students in a silent performance that combines costume and path making.

Pause with us on Friday, May 29 from 5–7 p.m. in Allegheny Commons (West Park) for the culminating performance and a celebratory picnic.

“The caliber of the Charm Bracelet organizations and the work they produce is amazing. The North Side has so much to offer—I hope this project will succeed in highlighting these incredible resources. After several iterations of the chalk shoes project with various groups in New York City, I am looking forward to working with MCG students to help them contemplate their relationship to the neighborhood. I also want to give the adults space to connect with the next generation of community members, and hope the neighborhood joins us in the activation of the park through the coalition of these organizations,” says Mandle.

Visit the *Path to the Park* exhibition, on view at MCG@800 Penn Avenue from June 15 – August 30, to experience the process from start to finish.

MCG and the New Hazlett Theater are proud to see *Path to the Park* come together as the result of their joint efforts along with the Allegheny Commons Initiative and a contribution from the Grable Foundation as part of the Charm Bracelet Project Fund.

Sara Radelet, Executive Director of the New Hazlett Theater, shares her sentiments about *Path to the Park*: “The Charm Bracelet mini-grant program presented a special opportunity to expand the boundaries of our usual programming through collaboration. After learning about Julia’s work through a conference I attended in New York, I was excited to connect with MCG to bring her to Pittsburgh. It will be great to see the students explore broad themes through their work and engage in becoming mentors themselves as they teach the adults to wear and walk in the chalk shoes.”



About J Mandle Performance

J Mandle Performance is a not-for-profit arts organization that creates site-specific performances in unexpected locations to heighten the perception of the everyday environment. Learn more at www.jmandleperformance.org.

About MCG Youth & Arts

Founded in 1968 by Bill Strickland, MCG Youth & Arts' nationally recognized and acclaimed year-round programs educate, inspire and support positive change among Pittsburgh youth by engaging students and their communities in learning through visual arts.

In collaboration with the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) and with support from various grants, foundations and individual donations, MCG Youth & Arts is a center for arts and learning that serves approximately 2,000 unique students in grades K-12 annually. Additionally, MCG Youth & Arts hosts a number of opportunities for educators and the community, and offers public access to its two galleries at no cost. MCG is a subsidiary of Manchester Bidwell Corporation. Learn more at www.manchesterguild.org.

About The New Hazlett Theater

The New Hazlett Theater serves over 26,000 individuals each year in a flexible, multi-use venue. Programming includes dance, dramatic theater and music events presented by a core group of Pittsburgh small arts organizations. The New Hazlett Theater itself also occasionally produces and presents performance programming and is one of the key partners in a monthly discussion series called CityLIVE. Learn more at www.NewHazlettTheater.org.

Media Contacts

Brittany Colatrella
Communications Coordinator, MCG Youth & Arts
E-mail: bcolatrella@mcg-btc.org
Phone: 412-322-1773 Ext. 378
Fax: 412-321-2120

Sara Radelet
Executive Director, New Hazlett Theater
E-mail: sara.radelet@verizon.net
Phone: 412-320-4610 Ext. 11