

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

August 5, 2015

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### **Lowcountry Rice Culture Forum on the way**

*Georgetown proud host of biennial event*

The Georgetown County Library and Athenaeum Press at Coastal Carolina University are excited to announce they will host the 2015 Lowcountry Rice Culture Forum, an event that draws enthusiastic participants to different places in our southern coastal region every other year. This year's forum explores the significance of rice cultivation in the south and its legacies by focusing on the effect of South Carolina's former rice industry on the arts and culture of yesterday and today.

The 2015 forum will run from Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, and will feature lectures, entertainment, tours and exhibits around the county. A sampling is listed below; for full Lowcountry Rice Forum details, visit the library's website:

<http://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov/programs/Pages/RiceForum2015>

"We are so happy with the presenters and partners that are making this possible," enthused library director Dwight McInvaill. "There are stellar scholars from around the nation, noted artists like Jonathan Green, and amazing performers like the Columbia City Ballet and Ron and Natalie Daise."

All-Access Passes of \$55 are available, or you can select single events. Reservations are recommended: (843) 545-3316.

### **Documentary Premiere**

Thursday, September 17, 7:00 pm

Waccamaw Neck Library, 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island

FREE

*This brand new documentary features convivial interviews with Georgetown County Gullah artists and cultural leaders. Introduction by interviewer Dr. Valinda Littlefield, USC, and some of the featured artists.*

### **Rice Culture Influences on the Arts**

Friday, September 18, 10 am - 5 pm

Waccamaw Neck Library, 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island

\$20 (included in all-access pass)

*Three panel discussions will explore how South Carolina's rice-growing past echoes into the present through the artwork and outlook of its residents.*

### **Off the Wall and Onto the Stage: Dancing the Art of Jonathan Green**

Friday, September 18, 8:00 pm

Winyah Auditorium, 1200 Highmarket Street, Georgetown

\$20 (included in all-access pass)

*Columbia City Ballet, South Carolina's premier professional ballet company, will bring the vivid Lowcountry artwork of Jonathan Green to spectacular, graceful life. Followed by a casual soiree to meet the performers.*

### **Concert Featuring the Freedom Readers Children's Choir**

Saturday, September 19, 4:00 pm

Kaminski House Lawn, 1003 Front Street, Georgetown

FREE

*The delightful Freedom Readers Children's Choir will present music that takes its cue from the South Carolina Lowcountry, after an elucidating introduction on Gullah Music from Dr. Eric Crawford of Coastal Carolina University.*

### **"God's Trombones"**

Saturday, September 19, 7:30 pm

Winyah Auditorium, 1200 Highmarket Street, Georgetown

\$20 (included in all-access pass)

*Performing and visual artists Ron and Natalie Daise will present dramatic readings from "God's Trombones: Seven Negro Poems in Verse" by James Weldon Johnson.*

## **Other Forum Events**

*Please note - these are not included in the all-access pass, and require a separate reservation.*

### **Plantation Tour**

Thursday, September 17, 2-5 pm

Hobcaw Barony, 22 Hobcaw Road, Georgetown SC 29440

\$20

Maximum Number of Participants: 28

Reservations: (843) 546-4623

*Hobcaw Barony offers a three-hour bus tour of the former rice plantation, African American village and Hobcaw House, highlighting the history of rice cultivation and the transition to a hunting retreat for the Baruch family of New York.*

### **Jonathan Green Exhibit and Brunch**

Saturday, September 19, 11 am - 1:30 pm

Georgetown County Museum, 120 Broad Street, Georgetown, SC 29440

Maximum Number of Participants: 60

\$20

Reservations: (843) 545-7020

*Noted Charleston artist Jonathan Green will show pieces he has chosen especially for the Rice Culture Forum 2015, and will talk about influences on his work. At noon, everyone will visit the Big Tuna for a delicious brunch with Jonathan.*

The 2015 forum is made possible by the Lowcountry Rice Culture group, Georgetown County Library, Athenaeum Press at Coastal Carolina University, the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, the Friends of the Georgetown Library, South Carolina's Hammock

Coast, Jonathan Green Studios, Brookgreen Gardens, Hobcaw Barony, the Kaminski House Museum, Georgetown County Museum, and other private sponsors.