

WOLF TRAP'S FACE OF AMERICA

Every great civilization has recorded its vision of the world through the arts, expressing the fundamental wonders of life through movement, music, and visual images. It is the mission of **Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts** to present the breadth of America's artistic heritage and to expand upon that heritage with contemporary voices interpreting the world today.

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts (www.wolftrap.org) presents more than 250 performances a year in three unique venues and produces hundreds of education programs annually throughout the Washington, DC metro region, with partnerships that extend our work across the U.S. and often around the world.

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts was created in 1966 when founder Catherine Filene Shouse donated property to the National Park Service to create a place that presented the performing arts in the beautiful natural environment of northern Virginia. The Foundation was created in 1969 to partner with the National Park Service to operate the one-of-a-kind venue. Our programs reach 500,000 people annually.



More than 7,000 people at a sold-out performance at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia

***Wolf Trap's Face of America*TM**

Wolf Trap's unique position—the only national park for the performing arts—allows it to play a role in the preservation of both our culture and our natural environment. Wolf Trap proudly launched the *Face of America* series in 2000 to explore and celebrate the diverse people, histories and landscapes of our national parks. For each project, Wolf Trap commissions new work from dancers, musicians, and other artists to tell the story of one or more of our national parks. We capture performances at the park(s) in high-definition video and bring it back to Wolf Trap National Park, showing live performance integrated with video to our audience. **The goal of the project is to capture not just images, but a unique artistic interpretation of a park's beauty and meaning to people over the ages.**

In April 2008, PBS broadcast nationally as part of its Great Performances series ***Dance in America: Wolf Trap's Face of America***, a 90-minute show that told the story of each production in the series, provided behind-the-scenes interviews with the artists, and showed footage from both the filming in the parks and the performances at Wolf Trap.

Face of America: Glacier National Park

Montana's Glacier National Park made the perfect venue for our sixth *Face of America* production. Glacier is rich in cultural history that includes Native Americans, early trappers and hunters, and the building of cross-continental railroads. The park holds an extraordinary range of environments, hosting major research projects focusing on such issues as global climate change, air quality, and resource usage.

We are proud that *Face of America: Glacier National Park* will kick-off the Glacier Centennial celebration in our nation's capital and will provide additional media exposure for the Centennial. Wolf Trap always creates close working relationships with its partners. We met with Chas Cartwright before he began his position as superintendent in June 2008, and worked with the interpretative staff to understand the story of Glacier Park and to select appropriate filming sites to tell that story. We have met with leaders of the Blackfeet and Salish/Kootenai tribes to gain perspective on the park's ancient cultural history and importance to indigenous peoples. Wolf Trap has also coordinated closely with the Glacier National Park Fund on fundraising for this project in Montana, as well as with a number of individuals helping to make this project a reality.

Wolf Trap President & CEO Terre Jones says, "One issue in particular that attracted us to Glacier is that it is environmentally endangered. The glaciers that have existed there for eons are diminishing at a very rapid pace, and we hope to make that tremendous loss a thematic part of what this production conveys to audiences."

The world premiere of *Face of America: Glacier National Park* is scheduled for August 19, 2009 at the Filene Center in Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. The project will include:

- The world premiere of a new work, *The Sun Road*, by choreographer Trey McIntyre, which will integrate live performance with HD video captured in Glacier National Park
- Performances by renowned Montana artists, including Jack Gladstone and Rob Quist, and pianist Philip Aaberg
- The Premiere Dinner, for which Governor Schweitzer, Senators Baucus and Tester, and Congressman Rehberg have all agreed to serve as honorary co-hosts

Trey McIntyre, one of the most sought-after choreographers working today, has said about this project: "One of the things that strikes you immediately about Glacier is the sense of scale. There is a feeling that's somehow almost painful about looking into an expanse like that. The beauty is so overwhelming.... I hope the piece will add something to [the audience's] world view about global warming and help the preservation of our planet remain in the forefront of their thinking."

The *Face of America* series is part of Wolf Trap's commitment to partner with our sister parks and our nation's most exciting performing artists to expand artistic boundaries, enrich the American repertoire, and deepen public understanding of our national treasures—our parks.

For more information on the *Face of America* series, go to www.wolftrap.org/face.



Ranger Mark Wagner at Many Glaciers with Trey McIntyre (center) and project partners