

ART OF ELYSIUM HOSTS 6TH ANNUAL “HEAVEN” GALA

HONORS DAVID ARQUETTE AND COLLEEN ATWOOD WITH THE “SPIRIT OF ELYSIUM” AWARD

The Art of Elysium is holding their sixth annual black-tie gala, “Heaven,” on January 12, 2012 at LOCATION. Heaven is The Art of Elysium’s largest annual fundraiser, supporting the majority of the foundation’s operating costs, and ensuring the continuation and expansion of its mission to make art a catalyst for social change, and bring creativity into the lives of tens of thousands of hospitalized children. Colleen Atwood has been chosen to serve as the 2013 Visionary, and David Arquette will be honored with the 2013 “Spirit of Elysium” Award for his involvement in the charity. This year’s gala is sponsored by Audi, with additional support from Ciroc Ultimate Vodka.

“The Art of Elysium is the art of Heaven,” said founder Jennifer Howell. “Artists are mirrors of what is going on in society. When an artist shows love, compassion, and philanthropy through their work, they are not just building a career, they are reflecting those values onto an entire community.” Every year, the organization chooses one visionary artist to create his or her own conception of “Heaven on Earth,” through a larger-than-life art installation, to be unveiled at the event. This year, the Heaven gala will unveil Colleen Atwood’s vision of Heaven—a water-themed installation, “where the sea meets the sky in the mist of the eye.”

Atwood is an award-winning costume designer, who has worked on such films as Chicago, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. Known for creating costumes that inspire characters of their own, the designer has collaborated with directors like Tim Burton, Rob Marshall, and Jonathan Demme. Past Visionaries include: Jim Sheridan, Mark Mothersbaugh, Shepard Fairey, and Cameron Silver.

In addition to an unparalleled artistic experience, incorporating the four main disciplines that make up the foundation’s self-sustaining model for philanthropic entertainment—music, fine art, fashion, and theatre/media arts, the charity will also honor one special artist with their highest distinction, The Spirit of Elysium Award.

Given to an artist who has shown incredible initiative, sincerity, and consistency in volunteering with the organization, this year's Spirit of Elysium Award recipient is David Arquette. The actor was first introduced to the charity in 2003, and has since dedicated a great deal of his time and talent to many of The Art of Elysium's programs. In addition to his own participation in the organization's theatre/media and fine arts workshops, where he worked directly children in need, he has hosted events, recruited other volunteers, secured fundraising opportunities, and even opened his own home on numerous occasions to help introduce others to The Art of Elysium's crucial mission. Past Spirit of Elysium recipients include: James Franco, Kirsten Dunst, Elijah Wood, and Eva Mendes.

ABOUT ART OF ELYSIUM

The Art of Elysium is a non-profit organization that brings the talents of artists from every discipline into the hospital rooms of children whose lives have been severely disrupted by illness. "I believe in the power of creativity, said Howell. "If you can teach a child to see a hospital room as a totally different world and allow them to create their own reality through the means of creative expression, then you have given them the gift of imagination and the true healing power of art."