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**For Immediate Release**

## **First Night® Fort Collins 2009**

*“An explosion of art and curiosity!”*

**Fort Collins, CO** Looking for the ultimate night of entertainment on New Year’s Eve? Want to celebrate the arts along with the New Year? Then make plans to be in Downtown Fort Collins on December 31, 2008 from 6:00pm to 10:45pm for the **13th Annual First Night® Fort Collins: Beyond the Stars.**

A non-alcoholic, arts-based celebration, First Night® Fort Collins offers cultural experiences, family entertainment and children’s interactive activities through 100 shows of theatre, dance, art, song, comedy, storytelling, magic, puppetry, and visual arts. This event, produced by the Downtown Business Association, hosts artists and performers from the Northern Colorado area and beyond. Eclectic musicians, magicians, dancers, and comedic characters will help ring in the New Year by celebrating the stars. Where else can you see the best of the TriMedia Film Festival, enjoy original local theater, be amazed by magicians or learn the secrets of the stars through storytelling and science? Music fans can experience an exciting global musical tour by attending some of the acts sponsored by First Night’s official music sponsor, Bohemian Foundation. This year the music program offers a diverse selection including Australian didgeridoo music, Celtic ballads, instrumental brass medleys of "space" movie soundtracks including themes from *Star Wars & The Jetsons*, Latin canciones del las estrellas, classic Western music, and hands on percussion. The evening will host a wide array of shows to awaken and stimulate everyone’s sense of intrigue.

**Date:** Monday, December 31, 2008

**Time:** 6:00pm – 10:45pm (5:00pm Kids’ Countdown at the Fort Collins Museum)

**Location:** Downtown Fort Collins

**Tickets/Buttons:** \$10 (children 6 & under are free when accompanied by a ticketed adult)

**Purchase:** Lincoln Center box office, Fort Collins/Loveland King Soopers & Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream in Old Town Sq.

**Info:** [www.DowntownFortCollins.com](http://www.DowntownFortCollins.com) or 970-484-6500

The evening’s revelry will kick off with confetti and song at 5pm with the Kids’ Countdown at the Fort Collins Museum (200 Mathews St.) and conclude with a festive display of fireworks in Old Town Square at 10:30pm. This year’s theme, **“Beyond the Stars,”** brings acts and performers together for enjoyment by all ages in this unique collection of talent and entertainment. First Night® 2009 will renew Fort Collins’ sense of curiosity by giving people interactive experiences with art and science, passionate cultural performances, imaginative magic and musical shows as well as laughter. This year, enjoy special showings of *E.T. The Extra Terrestrial*. Audiences can relive this fully restored 1982 classic! A loveable sci-fi movie to warm the heart and make us laugh! This film is a winner of 3 Academy Awards®, directed by Steven Spielberg and debuts a very young Drew Barrymore. People can also experience Fale - West African Drum and Dance Collective bringing a bit of West Africa to the Rocky Mountains, play a game show with Capt Kirk and Spock or make a New Year’s Eve s’more by the fireside. Children are encouraged to attend venues offering hands-on activities with music, art and movement!

Admission to First Night® Fort Collins requires the purchase of a \$10 button, with children 6 and under free when accompanied by a paying adult. There are a limited number of buttons on sale this year; only 3,500 will be sold for First Night® Fort Collins 2009. **Buttons go on sale December 20th** at all Fort Collins, Windsor and Loveland King Soopers, Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream (Old Town Square) and the Lincoln Center box office.

Detailed information about the event, performances and times can be found online at [www.DowntownFortCollins.com](http://www.DowntownFortCollins.com), on the official button card (with button purchase) and in the official First Night® Fort Collins program published on December 24<sup>th</sup> in **Fort Collins Now**.

We would like to thank our sponsors who help make this community event possible- Official Music Sponsor: Bohemian Foundation. Presenting Sponsors: The Downtown Business Association, Dellenbach Subaru, Clear Channel Communications and Beet Street. Contributing Sponsors: Fort Collins Now, Transfort, and Burt’s Shirts.

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