

# MID VALLEY NEWS

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## Creative Planet School of the Arts Students to Perform at Benefit for Tanzanian Children with AIDS



**Baldwin Park** — Artistic Director, Billy Rugh, of Creative Planet School of the Arts, announced that the students of Creative Planet School of the Arts will be performing at a benefit to raise awareness and funds for children suffering from HIV/AIDS in Tanzania, Africa.

This is the second annual event sponsored by Huntington Hospital's Phil Simon Clinic in Pasadena.

This year the group of clinic and hospital staff members, headed by the Phil Simon Clinic Founder Director, Dr. Kimberly A. Shriner, returned to spend 13 days in Arusha, Tanzania, where one out of ten individuals in the country is infected with HIV/AIDS.

The Phil Simon Clinic, in conjunction with the Upone Charitable Medical Centre in Arusha is designing a multi-disciplinary clinic for local Tanzanians. Needs assessment programs, education, prevention, support groups and general medical care will be provided. The Phil Simon Clinic Tanzania Project is a small, community based and highly focused endeavor to assist in the con-

trol HIV/AIDS, of one of the most devastating epidemics in the global community.

The theme of this year's event is "Children Helping Children." The event organizers chose to include local community children to participate in the event to help raise awareness for these needy children suffering in Tanzania.

Creative Planet School of the Arts was invited as the featured performers at the event to be held at Castle Green in Pasadena on Sunday, April 23 at 1:30pm. Along with Creative Planet's performance, the event will include a silent auction offering an original bronze sculpture by renowned artist, Louis Longi, as well as pieces created by students from Holy Family Elementary School.

Mr. Billy states, "the students of Creative Planet have immersed themselves in the Tanzanian culture for this event. Their fierce half hour performance will include cultural African dance, playing African instruments, songs sung in Swahili, the native language of Tanzania, as well as urban dancing to native hip-hop. Not only will our kids gain

incredible knowledge of the Tanzanian culture, they are learning first hand how less fortunate others are in the world and how their art can help raise awareness to a great cause where so many are desperately poor and stricken with terminal illnesses. They will also develop a pen-pal relationship with individual children in Tanzania so they can stay connected with their African brothers and sisters who are benefiting from this event."

CPSOA students have been guest performers with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Vox Femina Los Angeles, the South Coast Chorale and the Culver City Chamber Orchestra. They have also worked with such artists as Tony Award winners Joanna Gleason and Tonya Pinkins, Academy Award nominee Chris Sarandon, and Mallory Lewis and "Lambchop".

For more information regarding the event, please go to: [http://www.thephil-simonclinic.org/site/tanzania\\_project\\_goals.php](http://www.thephil-simonclinic.org/site/tanzania_project_goals.php) or call 626-397-5480.

To contact Creative Planet School of the Arts, please call 626.856.1710 or go to [www.cpsoa.org](http://www.cpsoa.org).

