

**For Immediate Release**

**HOTEL DES ARTISTES CELEBRATES ITS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH DANCE & ART**

**Honors the Building with the Dances of Isadora Duncan,**

**Who Moved into the des Artistes in 1917, Amid the Building's Iconic Architecture**

New York, NY – June 8, 2017 – The residents of the Hotel des Artistes celebrated the building's 100th anniversary on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> with an evening devoted to the arts. Dancers and musicians performed the choreography of Isadora Duncan, a 1917 resident, in historic spaces throughout the building, which is located at 1 West 67<sup>th</sup> Street.



*Jenifer Golden, Word Dance Theater, dances under mural by Leroy Neiman in Hotel des Artistes. Credit: William Calvin Lee*

The performances took place in two of the Hotel des Artistes double-height studios, around the 1917 indoor pool with its mural by Leroy Neiman and in the historic lobby under a mural of 17<sup>th</sup> century New York harbor. As has been the custom for a century, the work of current and former resident artists hung in the corridors near their studios, including [Lewis Bryden](#), Amaylia Castaldo , [Cecile Ryden Johnson](#), Adrienne T. Lynch and Paul Treblicock. The evening ended with a toast to the building and a celebratory reception in The Leopard at Des Artistes where the murals of Howard Chandler Christy, an early resident, are permanently exhibited.

“So many painters, sculptors, musicians, dancers, actors and filmmakers have lived and flourished within these walls, it was fitting to celebrate the centennial with an immersive event celebrating the arts,” said Pamela Johnson, Chairman of the Centennial Committee whose family has resided at the des Artistes for four generations.

In 1917, Isadora Duncan rented a studio in the building and The Isadorables – her students and adopted daughters—lived and performed there. It was a tumultuous time. The Czar fell that year and the world was at war. The arts were breaking new ground. It was just four years after The Armory Show had turned New York's art world upside down. Ten years later a resident of des Artistes directed Al Jolson in “The



*Cynthia Word, Word Dance Theater; dances in the roof garden, Hotel des Artistes photo by William Calvin Lee*

Jazz Singer” – the first full-length movie with a synchronized musical score and talking. And the internationally acclaimed choreographer and dancer Isadora Duncan was breaking new ground in dance – inventing a new form of dance and laying the foundation for modern dance.

According to Ingrid Zimmer, one of the Isadora Duncan dancers who performed at the des Artistes celebration, “Many years before the first ‘minimalist’ art movement in the Western world, Isadora was experimenting with stillness, with breath- initiated movement and simplicity and expressing the entire gamut of human emotion on stage through dance.”

The evening's performers included legendary Duncan dancer, [Jeanne Bresciani](#), protégée of Isadorable Maria Theresa Duncan; [Cynthia Word](#), Director of Word Dance Theater and authority on Isadora Duncan; Ingrid Zimmer, Associate director of Word Dance Theatre; with Rosie Cooper, Hannah Goldberg and Jenifer Golden – all devotees and conservators of Duncan’s prolific work. They danced to the works of Chopin, Brahms and Rachmaninov accompanied by acclaimed pianist Carlos Rodriguez, and flute ensemble members of The High-Lows of New York: Director Mary Barto and members David Abecassis, Amber Pak and Kathryn Shah. The evening came together with the help of creative consultant Jennifer Paulson Lee and the Centennial Committee: Elizabeth Bryden, Lewis Bryden, Cheryl Daly, Pamela Johnson and Bonnie Roche.

When the Hotel des Artistes opened in 1917, 67th Street was already home to artists and musicians who lived on the street in a series of cooperatives many built with double-height studios designed to capture the northern light considered ideal for painting. Often referred to as “Artists Row,” the block is listed as the “West 67<sup>th</sup> Street Artists’ Colony Historic District” in the National Register of Historic Places.



The Isadorables - adopted daughters and students of Isadora Duncan - dance at Hotel des Artistes, 1917. Apeda Studio. Jerome Robbins Collection. New York Public Library.

Over the years, Hotel des included playwright Noel

Ferber and Fannie Hurst, film star Rudolph Valentino, actress ZaSu Pitts, Alexander Woollcott and other members of the Algonquin Round Table. Early residents of Hotel des Artistes enjoyed performances in an in-house theater and ballroom and such amenities as an indoor swimming pool, squash court and a sun court and, at that time, dumb waiters in many of the apartments that brought up meals prepared by the building's chef.

Artistes residents have Coward, writers Edna