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Great Performances introduces The Atrium Café at The Studio Museum in Harlem

***Renowned caterer and leading arts organization partner
to create a unique culinary experience for visitors and neighbors***

For Immediate Release:

New York, NY (May 21, 2010) – Museum goers will find another welcoming experience at The Studio Museum in Harlem (www.studiomuseum.org) when it introduces the Atrium Café. Opening to the public on June 5th, the café represents an innovative partnership with Great Performances (www.greatperformances.com), a leading catering and event planning company known for creating food experiences at major cultural institutions throughout New York City.

“The Studio Museum in Harlem is deeply committed to providing all our visitors with a wonderful and multifaceted experience,” say Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of the Studio Museum, “I am thrilled that the Atrium Café will join our special exhibitions, permanent collection, public programs, and Museum Store as another great reason to spend a few hours or a whole day uptown.”

The Atrium Café will initially be open during the Museum’s weekend hours and special events, serving an eclectic menu designed by Great Performances’ Chef de Cuisine Marc Spooner. Patrons will enjoy fresh, delicious fare in the Museum’s sunny atrium, alongside Glenn Ligon’s dramatic neon sculpture *Give Us a Poem* (2007) and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out at the bustling 125th Street.

Menu highlights include a Red Pepper Wrap with Soba Noodles, Shrimp Salad and Sweet Chili Sauce, and a Crab Cake with Old Bay Aioli, Butter Lettuce and Citrus Cole Slaw on a Parker House Roll. As a new partner in Harlem's growing culinary community, Great Performances will present regular food festivals with and source specialty items from artisanal Harlem producers such as Make My Cake bakery. As part of this exclusive partnership, Great Performances will also provide all catering for the Museum's growing slate of special events.

"We are committed to expanding the impact of this vital institution on a culinary level while raising its profile in the special events community," says Great Performances CEO Liz Neumark.

The Studio Museum, located in the heart of Harlem at **144 West 125th Street**, is a contemporary art museum that focuses on the work of artists of African descent locally, nationally and internationally, as well as work that has been inspired and influenced by African-American culture. This collaboration represents the latest in a series of high-profile partnerships that Great Performances enjoys with leading cultural institutions citywide including Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center; BAM; Sotheby's; International Center of Photography; Apollo Theater; and El Museo del Barrio.

About Great Performances

Great Performances brings consummate culinary skill and originality to the table, complemented by personalized attention to detail and exquisite service. The company, founded in 1979 by Liz Neumark as a staffing service for women in the arts, is now an acknowledged leader in the high-profile events arena and has carved out a niche as the foodservice partner of some of the city's most prestigious cultural institutions including Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center; BAM; Sotheby's; Apollo Theater, Wave Hill, Caramoor, and El Museo del Barrio. Great Performances is the only catering company nationally to own and operate its own organic farm, Katchkie Farm in Columbia County, New York. The Company pioneered the 100-Mile Menu (www.100mitemenu.com) bringing sustainable food to the forefront of the special events industry. For more information on Great Performances, visit www.greatperformances.com

About the Studio Museum in Harlem

Founded in 1968, the Studio Museum in Harlem (www.studiomuseum.org) is a contemporary art museum that focuses on the work of artists of African descent, nationally and internationally, as well as work that has been inspired and influenced by African-American culture. The Museum is committed to serving as a unique resource in the local community, and in national and international arenas by making artworks and exhibitions concrete and personal for each viewer. The Studio Museum's permanent collection contains over 1,600 works from the nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first-centuries. Artists represented in the collection range from African-American masters Jacob Lawrence and Romare Bearden, to renowned former artists-in-residence Julie Mehretu, Kehinde Wiley, and Wangechi Mutu, to emerging international artists Lynette Yiadom-Boakye and Adler Guerrier.

Collected. Reflections on the Permanent Collection; and *VidéoStudio: New Work from France* will be on view at the Studio Museum through June 27, 2010.

Upcoming exhibitions include *Zwelethu Mthethwa; Artists-in-Residence 2009-10: Mequitta Ahuja, Lauren D. Kelley, Valerie Piraino; Harlem Postcards*; and *Expanding the Walls: Making Connections Between Photography, History and Community* (all on view July 15-October 24, 2010). Ongoing projects include *StudioSound: DJ /rupture* and *Harlem Postcards*.