

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ellen Martin, Executive Director

Phone: Office (831) 373-4778 Cell (831) 233-2092

Email: ellen@firstnightmonterey.org, website: www.firstnightmonterey.org

First Night Monterey buttons on sale now

With New Year's Eve less than two weeks away the excitement, anticipation and the sales of admission buttons for the 19th annual community wide Celebration are in high gear. Discounted buttons are available now at advance sale prices at all Monterey County Safeway stores, Nob Hill Foods in Monterey and Salinas, Walgreens in Monterey and Seaside, The Works in Pacific Grove, the Monterey Museum of Art, Museum of Monterey, the California Welcome Center in Salinas as well as online at www.FirstNightMonterey.org. Buttons serve as tickets that grant entry to all the 75 performances that make up the Celebration and are \$20 for adults, \$12 for youth ages 5-15, and children under five will be admitted free. Button prices will be \$25 and \$15 at the Celebration on December 31st.

The entire community is invited to this very special celebration of the arts that brings together musical entertainment, dance, art, theater and arts activities that unfolds starting at 3pm on **New Year's Eve**. Join your friends and neighbors from throughout Monterey County as we dance, play, act, perform, create and sing our way into 2012!

This year's theme, "**A FantaSea of Art**" will transform historic downtown Monterey streets, stores and stages for this year's Celebration. The mysterious, playful and art-filled beauty of underwater life is the backdrop for the more than 200 artists that come together to perform and engage Monterey Coast audiences. The Monterey Conference Center's Resolution Room (An Octopus' Garden) will be transformed into an underwater playground sure to be remembered for years to come.

Join the Opening Ceremony on Colton Lawn, followed by **Kids Night Out!** Interactive activities such as face painting, Taiko drummers, bubble stomp, and new year's eve hat-

making station will entertain children of all ages. We invite you to this very special celebration of the arts that brings together musical entertainment, dance, art, theater and arts activities that unfolds starting at 3pm on New Year's Eve. Join us as we dance, play, act, perform, create and sing our way into 2012! **The Twilight Procession** kicks off the evening's events as it winds along Alvarado Street, peopled by huge puppets, adults and children.

This year attendees will get the opportunity to perform with world renowned musician-composer Donald Knaack, aka **The Junkman**, as he plays his unique brand of music, on instruments created by local workshop students from junk and recycled materials. The Junkman will be presenting five separate performances. As the new year gets ever closer attendees will welcome in 2012 to the sultry bluesy sounds of **John Broadway Tucker** in the Serra Ballroom at the Monterey Conference Center for the Celebration's finale at 11:15pm. See you at First Night Monterey.

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About First Night Monterey

First Night Monterey is a public value 501c3 non-profit arts organization that conducts year-round community outreach and arts education workshops that culminate at the landmark New Year's Eve celebration. First Night Monterey's mission is to foster the public's appreciation of visual and performing arts and celebrate families and community through workshops and the New Year's Eve celebration. First Night Mission Statement: To reveal and celebrate diversity through the First Night Monterey celebration and the First Night ArtWorks! program, using art as a catalyst to unify the community through creativity, imagination and participation.