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SAMA-LORETTO EXHIBITIONS HIGHLIGHT THE STAGE AND SCREEN

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will shine a spotlight on the theatre this summer with a pair of exhibitions. Opening June 22, the Museum will offer *Bright Lights and Opening Nights: Film, Theater and Dance Posters from the Mark del Costello Collection* and *Theaters of the Imagination: The Early Works of Colleen Browning*. The exhibitions reflect the “Spotlight on Broadway” theme for this summer’s annual Gala, scheduled for July 21. Both shows will remain on view through October 5.

The glamorous world of stage and screen is the focus of *Bright Lights and Opening Nights*, on display in the Museum’s Sullivan Gallery. Featuring original posters drawn from the Mark del Costello Collection, the exhibition surveys a wide variety of theatrical productions ranging from Broadway musicals and stage performances to Hollywood blockbusters, avant-garde cinema, ballet, modern dance, international film festivals, and more. Visitors will recognize classics such as *Annie*, *Godspell* and *The Wiz*, while also being treated to rare and unusual offerings from Hungary, Iran, Russia, and other far-away places.

The approximately 80 posters on view represent a diverse body of artistic talent and include many well-known names in both the fine arts and graphic design. Renowned illustrators Seymour Chwast, Milton Glaser and David Lance Goines will be exhibited alongside cartoonists such as Edward Gorey and the Jazz-Age giant, Jon Held, Jr. Pop icon Andy Warhol makes an appearance as do poster masters David Edward Byrd and Paul Davis.

In the Margery Wolf-Kuhn Balcony Gallery, guests will be treated to *Theaters of the Imagination: The Early Works of Colleen Browning*. Consisting of 40 works from SAMA’s permanent collection, the exhibition explores the early and pervasive love of fantasy that led to Browning’s emergence as a Magic Realist. Through rare drawings, paintings and watercolors, *Theaters of the Imagination* charts the artist’s growth from child prodigy to working professional. It begins with the unusually sophisticated compositions of her childhood and progresses through her student days at London’s famous Slade School of Art. Culminating in the artist’s designs for murals and stage sets, the exhibition offers unique insights into how a gifted young woman becomes an important artistic innovator.

Browning became a leader of the Magic Realist movement following her move from Britain to the United States in 1949. Over the next several decades, she pursued her unique

aesthetic and affirmed the continued relevance of representational painting during an era largely dominated by abstract and conceptual styles.

The exhibitions will be featured during the Museum's 40th annual Gala, "Spotlight on Broadway." Scheduled for Saturday, July 21, the Gala will celebrate the glitz and glam of the theater with performances by local theater groups, live music, games of chance, gourmet cuisine, silent and live auctions, and the famous raw bar. Tickets are \$175 per person. Reservations are required by July 13 and can be made by calling (814) 472-3920 or visiting www.sama-art.org.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.