

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

**THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN TO
HONOR JULIE ANDREWS AND STEPHEN SCANNIELLO
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNUAL ROSE GARDEN DINNER**

OCTOBER 8, 2015

Cocktails, 5:45 p.m.; Dinner, 7:00 p.m.



Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden is pleased to announce its 25th annual Rose Garden Dinner. The Rose Garden Dinner celebrates the autumn flowering of the Garden's magnificent rose collection. The evening begins with cocktails in the world-renowned Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, followed by dinner and dancing in the Garden Terrace Room.

This year, the Garden is proud to honor Julie Andrews, renowned actress and avid rose gardener, along with Stephen Scanniello, Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator. As one of the Garden's most cherished attractions, the Rose Garden offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy nearly 700 varieties thriving in the only surviving New York City garden designed by the eminent landscape architect Beatrix Farrand in 1916. Long lauded as one of the most beautiful rose gardens in America, it has become one of the most environmentally friendly in the world through the addition of organic materials to improve soil health and application of integrated pest management principles to maximize plant health.

The Chairmen of this year's Rose Garden Dinner are Friederike Biggs, Maureen and Richard Chilton, Janet and Tom Montag, Wendy Keys Pels, Katharine and William Rayner, Marjorie and Jeffrey A. Rosen, Gillian and Robert Steel, Nonie and John Sullivan, Julia and Hans Utsch; the Honorary Chairmen of this year's Rose Garden Dinner are Mary and Marvin Davidson, Anne and Tom Hubbard, and Eliot and Roly Nolen.

In recognition of this effort, the Rockefeller Rose Garden has been presented the Rose Garden Hall of Fame Award by the Great Rosarians of the World™. The Rose Garden also was named the “Most Outstanding Public Rose Garden Display in America” by All-American Rose Selections.

The event proceeds help to maintain and build the Rose Garden collection, and support the curators' continued care and development of one of the world's premier rose venues. This event attracts 300 members of the Garden's extended family, and raises \$600,000 to support the collection.

Place: The New York Botanical Garden
Cocktails in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden
Dinner and dancing in the Garden Terrace Room
Date: Thursday, October 8, 2015
Time: Cocktails 5:45 p.m.; Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: Tickets start at \$1,000 per person

For press inquiries or more information, please contact Justin Conner/Third Eye:
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About the New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro North Railroad or Subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday, as well as certain federal holiday Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (winter hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., mid-January through February). The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the All-Garden Pass, which includes admission to the grounds as well as seasonal gardens, exhibitions and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check the website. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org.

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's operating funds is provided by the New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

About Julie Andrews

Julie Andrews is an admired stage, screen and television legend, and avid rose gardener. Her portrayal of lovable flower seller Eliza Doolittle in the original stage production of “My Fair Lady” became an instant classic and earned her the honor of a rose in her name at the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show in London in 1992. A beautiful display of ‘Sally Holmes’— her favorite rose— will be a special feature in the Rose Garden on the night of the Dinner.

About Stephen Scanniello

Stephen Scanniello is an award-winning garden designer and best-selling author, known for his world-acclaimed rose gardens. Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator at The New York Botanical Garden and President of the Heritage Rose Foundation, Stephen also designs private gardens and serves as a judge for the International Rose Trials in Europe and the U.S. He will share NYBG's sustainable rose gardening practices as well as fascinating stories behind recent rare rose acquisitions.