

For Immediate Release
December 9, 2004

**Third Annual Orchid Show at The New York Botanical Garden
Promises Tropical Adventures to Lift Winter Weary Spirits
February 26–March 27, 2005**

Just when the winter blues are most likely to have set in, *The Orchid Show* at The New York Botanical Garden offers a warm getaway to exotic locales that proffer countless varieties of orchids—by way of the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in the Bronx. Starting on February 26, 2005, visitors may stroll through the Conservatory to see, admire, and covet the more than five thousand orchid specimens that will be on dramatic display in naturalistic habitats and artistic settings through March 27.

Embark Upon an Orchid Adventure

The 2005 show, which carries the distinction of being the only curated and designed museum-quality orchid exhibition, is themed “Orchid Adventures.” The focus is on orchid exploration, particularly of orchids that have become scarce in the wild, and conservation in the Old World—primarily Asia—and the New World.

Exhibition Designer Philip Baloun of Philip Baloun Designs, New York City will employ a number of enthralling set pieces that immerse visitors into adventures in two hemispheres. Orchid-filled canoes afloat in a pool surrounded by towering palm trees in the Conservatory’s *Palms of the Americas* gallery mark the beginning of the exciting journey.

In the *Lowland Rain Forest* gallery, the sight and scents of *Oncidiums*, *Epidendrum*, *Cattleyas*, and other New World orchid species amid dense, lush greenery brings the illusion that one is exploring the jungles of the Americas.

Enter the *Seasonal Exhibition* galleries and you are suddenly traveling through the farthest reaches of Asia. Among the thousands of Old World *Vandas*, *Dendrobium*, *Cymbidium*, *Phalaenopsis*, and more is set a reed hut, illustrative of a site where orchid explorers (and smugglers) would make camp.

The Garden’s Curator of Glasshouse Collections Darrin Duling and Conservatory Director Francisca Coelho are the curators of *The Orchid Show*. Orchid Collection Gardener Marc Hachadourian manages cultivation of the orchids. Together they are compiling a dazzling diversity of orchid species throughout the Conservatory.

Slip Into the Captivating World of Slipper Orchids

Orchid adventures don’t end in the Conservatory. Just a short walk on the Garden grounds from America’s preeminent glasshouse, varieties of Old and New World slipper orchids will be on view in the terrarium of the Mertz Library’s Orchid Rotunda for additional study and enjoyment. These captivating beauties come in a wide range of colors, sizes, and forms, all sporting the pouch lip reminiscent of fine ballroom slippers. The intriguing beauty of slipper orchids has made them targets for unscrupulous plant collectors for well over a century. Today, international laws restrict their removal from the wild.

-more-

**Shop in the Garden Offers the Opportunity to
Bring the Beauty Home**

Located in the Garden's Levy Visitor Center, the Shop in the Garden is a destination not to be missed during *The Orchid Show*. Thousands of top-quality, exotic, and hard-to-find orchid specimens are available for purchase in the Shop, along with orchid products for the home grower and dozens upon dozens of orchid book titles.

Exhibition tours, home gardening demonstrations, expert Q&A sessions, Continuing Education classes, and children's programming round out the month-long orchid adventures at The New York Botanical Garden.

The Orchid Show is sponsored by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation

###

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road in the Bronx. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and on Monday holidays, from 10 a.m.–6p.m. April through October, and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. November through March. The best way to enjoy *The Orchid Show* is with the *Garden Passport*, a combination ticket that includes grounds admission, the Conservatory, Tram Tour, and Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for students and seniors, \$5 for children 2–12. For information call (718) 817-8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org.

Media Contacts: Melinda Manning or Maria Izquierdo 718.817.8616
Photos available