PRESS RELEASE

Press Contact: John Clifford (909) 576-5795
John@Pomonalibraryfoundation.org

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For Immediate Release

Pomona Public Library Foundation
Presents A Tribute To Ray Bradbury

As part of the Pomona Library’s Together We Read program, the Pomona Public Library Foundation will present “A Tribute to Ray Bradbury,” featuring a screening of the 1998 film “The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit,” starring Joe Mantegna, Edward James Olmos, Esai Morales, Clifton Collins, Gregory Sierra, and Liz Torres, and directed by Stuart Gordon.

The program will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12 in the Health Education Center at Western University of Health Sciences. Admission is $25 at the door, $20 if purchased online at www.pomonalibraryfoundation.org, or $20 at the door with a valid Pomona Library card or student ID.

In addition to the film, the program will include a panel of special guests, including cast members Mantegna, Olmos, and Torres, director Gordon, and official Bradbury biographer Sam Weller. The panel will be moderated by author and Bradbury friend Steven Paul Levia.

The Bradbury family said this about this program:
“Our father would have been thrilled to have this tribute paid to him in support of the Pomona Public Library. First, because of his life-long love of and advocacy for public libraries, but also because of Pomona Library...
Foundation has chosen to screen "The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit," his favorite among all the films based on his work. All in the Bradbury family send our best wishes for a successful fundraiser for the Pomona Public Library, and thank the city of Pomona for this wonderful tribute to Ray Bradbury.”

Joe Mantegna stars as Gomez in “The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit,” and originated the role in the original stage production at the Organic Theater Company in Chicago. Mantegna has had a long and successful career in television, with guest roles in such series as “Soap,” “Bosom Buddies,” “The Greatest American Hero,” “Simon and Simon,” and “Weeds.” He also appeared in the film “Three Amigos!” before landing a major role as Joey Zasa in “The Godfather, Part III.” He is probably best known for his starring roles in TV’s “Joan of Arcadia,” “The Starter Wife,” and his current role as David Rossi in “Criminal Minds.” He is also the voice of Fat Tony in many episodes of “The Simpsons.”

Edward James Olmos stars as Vamanos. He won worldwide acclaim for his starring role in Luis Valdez’s play, “Zoot Suit,” in 1978. The play moved to Broadway and led to a Tony Award nomination. Perhaps best known for his role as Lt. Martin Castillo in the NBC television series “Miami Vice” (1984-1989), Olmos has been seen in numerous film and television productions. He received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor for his starring role in “Stand and Deliver” (1988). His film roles include such iconic movies as “Blade Runner,” “Selena,” and “American Me.” He starred as Commander Adama in SyFy’s “Battlestar Galactica,” as appeared on “The West Wing,” “American Family,” and “Dexter.”

Liz Torres stars as Ruby Escadrillo. She has been a perennial face on television, starring in such TV shows as “Phyllis,” “All in the Family,” “The New Odd Couple,” “City,” “Over The Top,” “American Family,” and as Miss Patty, the dance school proprietor in “Gilmore Girls.” She is probably best known for her prime role as Mahalia on “The John Larroquette Show” (1993), which garnered her multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations.

Stuart Gordon, director of “The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit,” also directed “Re-Animator” (1985), and “From Beyond” (1986), and tackled the murderous “Dolls” (1987). Breaking from the horror genre, we went on to direct the comedy “Honey, I Shrunk the Kids” (1989), a major hit, and two episodes of the television series “Masters of Horror.”
Sam Weller, Ray Bradbury’s official biographer, worked with Bradbury for years, and was granted full access to all of the author’s papers and materials. From this long collaboration, he published “The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury”; “Listen to the Echoes: The Ray Bradbury Interviews”; “Ray Bradbury: The Last Interview And other Conversations;” and edited “Shadow Show: All-New Stories in Celebration of Ray Bradbury.”

Moderator Steven Paul Leiva was a longtime friend of Ray Bradbury and helped to organize Ray Bradbury Week in Los Angeles in 2010. He also was instrumental in the designation of the corner of 5th and Flower (just adjacent to the Los Angeles Central Library) as Ray Bradbury Square in 2012. After a varied career which saw him as the president of Chuck Jones Productions and executive producer for the film “Space Jam,” he authored several novels, including “Traveling in Space,” “Blood Is Pretty,” “Hollywood is an All-Volunteer Army,”; novelized the screenplay “The 12 Dogs of Christmas”; and penned an homage to his friend, “Searching for Ray Bradbury.” His latest novel, “By The Sea,” is set for publication in late 2014.

The Pomona Public Library Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of the Pomona Public Library. Contributions may be made to Pomona Public Library Foundation by mail, by phone at (909) 374-2050, by email at info@pomalibraryfoundation.org, or by using the “Donate” button on the PPLF website, www.pomalibraryfoundation.org. Checks should be made out to Pomona Public Library Foundation, and can be sent to: Pomona Public Library Foundation, 101 West Mission Blvd., Suite 101-219, Pomona, CA 91766. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donors should consult their tax advisor.

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