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Humanities West Celebrates its 25th Anniversary Season
Three Interdisciplinary Programs Exploring History to Educate and Entertain
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler: Redefining Our Place in the Universe
October 2 - 3, 2009

Alexander/Alexandria: The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture
February 5 - 6, 2010

The Florence of the Medici: Commerce, Power, and Art in Renaissance Italy
April 30 - May 1, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 18 June 2009) Humanities West, a Bay Area non-profit devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts, marks its twenty-fifth anniversary with three unique lecture/performance programs: *Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler: Redefining Our Place in the Universe* (October 2 - 3, 2009); *Alexander/Alexandria: The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture* (February 5 - 6, 2010) and *The Florence of the Medici: Commerce, Power, and Art in Renaissance Italy* (April 30 - May 1, 2010), at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue near McAllister in San Francisco. A detailed schedule with complete list of presenters is available online at: www.humanitieswest.org. Single tickets for individual programs range from \$20 - \$65; series tickets are available at significant discounts; contact City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com

Over the last twenty-five years Humanities West has brought together regional, national, and international scholars and artists to present lectures, performances, readings and discussions to audiences in San Francisco's Herbst Theatre. These one- or two-day events represent an opportunity unique not only to the Bay Area, but also to the entire United States. Designed to both entertain and educate, Humanities West has continued to offer presentations on a wide-range of topics encompassing the fine arts, social history, music, politics and philosophy of the arts. The lively combination of lectures and performances provide a form of "armchair travel" for audiences, offering a departure through time in an effort to illuminate and elevate the human spirit. Highlights from past years include "trips" to Italy, France, India, and China; and "meetings" with the likes of Marco Polo, Pericles, Napoleon, and Genghis Khan. Presenters have included noted scholars from distinguished universities, international dignitaries, acclaimed best-selling authors, and world-class performers.

Humanities West continues this ambitious tradition into its 25th Anniversary Season, opening with *Copernicus, Galileo and Kepler: Redefining Our Place in the Universe*, on October 2 - 3, 2009 in honor of the International Year of Astronomy and commemorating the 400th anniversary of modern astronomy and Galileo's first use of the telescope in 1609. The second program, *Alexander/Alexandria: The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture*, on February 5 - 6, 2010, examines the interplay of cultures in Hellenistic Egypt following Alexander's death in 323 BCE. Greek literature, learning, and art intermingled with Egyptian, Persian, Babylonian, and Hebrew cultures resulting in both conflict and convergence. The season culminates with *The Florence of the Medici: Commerce, Power, and Art in Renaissance Italy* on February 5 - 6, 2010, exploring the torrent of artistic and intellectual creativity that took place in Florence between the 14th and 17th centuries, which eventually came to shape modern culture of the western world.

Season tickets for all three two-day programs are \$220 orchestra/grand tier and \$140 balcony. A Fridays-only series is \$115 orchestra/grand tier and \$75 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$175 orchestra/grand tier and \$105 balcony. Series tickets offer significant savings over single-ticket prices. Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$45 orchestra/grand tier and \$30 balcony, and individual Saturday programs are \$65 orchestra/grand tier and \$40 balcony; single tickets for both days of each program are \$100 orchestra/grand tier and \$55 balcony. Single tickets in the balcony for students and teachers are discounted to \$20 a day. All seating must be reserved in advance. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com.

ABOUT HUMANITIES WEST:

A non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West is devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts. The only independent non-profit offering humanities and arts programs of this scale, Humanities West presents a diverse series of lectures and performances encompassing fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. These interdisciplinary programs are designed to entertain and educate audiences and to illuminate and elevate the human spirit through exploration of the many sources of modern culture.