



**WORLD PREMIERE OF *FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY, THE MUSICAL*
Julianne Moore's Children's Book comes to life at MMAC**

NEW YORK, NY – Manhattan Movement & Arts Center (MMAC) announces the world premiere of *Freckleface Strawberry the Musical*. The show is an adaptation of the best-selling children's book written by award winning actress Julianne Moore. MMAC Productions, located on the Upper West Side, debuted the musical on July 1st for a two-day workshop run. The first of many MMAC productions, *Freckleface* is about childhood, acceptance and friendship. The producers will announce a commercial run in the upcoming weeks.

"This show is truly breathtaking," says Rose Caiola, owner and director of MMAC. "It reaches out to everyone – children and adults alike. Everyone has faced some type of prejudice in their childhood whether it had to do with race, religion or the clothes they choose to wear. The music and choreography bring *Freckleface* to life."

The *Freckleface* starlet who steals the show is played by Rachel Resheff, who appears as Young Fiona in the Broadway Musical *Shrek*. In collaboration with Julianne Moore, Rose Caiola wrote the musical's book with Gary Kupper, who penned the music and lyrics. Buddy Crutchfield is the talented Director who marshaled the exceptional young cast and Gail Crutchfield is the choreographer behind the amazing theatrical moves.

Freckleface Strawberry, aka Julianne Moore at a young age, is a touching story about accepting yourself the way you are. Strawberry is teased about her freckles constantly, so she tries different ways to hide them before ultimately hiding herself. Her musical journey to self-acceptance is complete when she discovers that her classmates missed her while she lived undercover. They teach her that everyone is different and the most important thing is to have friends.

About Manhattan Movement & Arts Center

Manhattan Movement & Arts Center, located on the Upper West Side just south of Lincoln Center, comprises 18,000 square feet of obstruction-free dance studios and a state-of-the-art, 160-seat theater. MMAC is the home of the Manhattan Youth Ballet pre-professional academy and performance company, which was founded in 1994 as Studio Maestro by Rose Caiola. MMAC also offers a full schedule of adult open dance and fitness classes for all levels and a comprehensive children's program, and has become a popular rental venue for auditions, rehearsals and special events. Broadway Triple Threat is one of several summer programs introduced by MMAC to encourage creativity and artistry in young people. Additional information: www.manhattanmovement.com and www.manhattanyouthballet.org

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