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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark Ruffalo Joins 2018 Frederick Speaker Series Lineup; Additional Dr. Temple Grandin Engagement Added

FREDERICK, Md., Tuesday, September 12, 2017 — The Frederick Speaker Series will add an unprecedented fifth speaker to its lineup with actor, director, and climate change activist Mark Ruffalo on May 10, 2018 at 7:30pm. In addition, in response to record-breaking demand, Dr. Temple Grandin will now take the stage twice on January 18, 2018, with a matinee performance added for 3:00pm.

Now entering its sixth year, the celebrated Frederick Speaker Series has developed a strong reputation for bringing world-class innovators and leaders into the Frederick community. In addition to Ruffalo and Grandin, the 2018 lineup will include Ted Koppel, Mitch Albom, and Rita Moreno, as previously announced. All series events are held at the Weinberg Center for the Arts.

Tickets for Ruffalo and the additional Grandin engagement are now on sale to Weinberg Center members. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, September 19 at 10am. Tickets may be purchased online at FrederickSpeakerSeries.org, by calling the Weinberg Center Box Office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 W. Patrick Street. For more information about becoming a Weinberg Center member and gaining early access to tickets, please visit WeinbergCenter.org/Membership.

A separately-ticketed meet-and-greet reception will take place immediately following each presentation. These exclusive events provide a chance for fans to meet the speakers, take pictures, and obtain autographs. All proceeds from the meet-and-greet receptions will benefit children's programs at Frederick County Public Libraries.

Academy Award, Golden Globe, BAFTA, and Emmy nominee **Mark Ruffalo** is one of Hollywood's most sought-after actors, best known for his roles in "Spotlight," "Infinitely Polar Bear," "Foxcatcher," "The Normal Heart," "Begin Again," "Now You See Me," and "The Kids are Alright." His role as Bruce Banner – better known as 'The Hulk' – in Marvel's "The Avengers" and subsequent sequels has endeared him to audiences of all ages. He has been seen on and off-Broadway, most recently in Arthur Miller's critically-acclaimed play "The Price." Ruffalo made his directorial debut in 2011 with "Sympathy for Delicious," which won the Special Jury Prize for dramatic film at the Sundance Film Festival. When not acting or directing, Ruffalo advocates for addressing climate change and increasing renewable energy. He co-founded Water Defense to raise awareness about energy extraction impact on water and public health, and helped launch The Solutions Project to help share the feasibility of renewable energy. A regular contributor to The Guardian and The Huffington Post, Ruffalo has received the Global Green Millennium Award for

Environmental Leadership and the Meera Gandhi Giving Back Foundation Award. He was named one of Time Magazine's "People Who Mattered" in 2011, and received The Big Fish Award from Riverkeeper in 2013.

Diagnosed with autism as a child, **Dr. Temple Grandin** did not speak until she was nearly four years old. Fortunately, her mother defied the advice of the doctors and kept her out of an institution. Though life was hard, her formative years gave way to studies in animal science and a career in the livestock industry. Today, half of the cattle in the United States are handled in facilities she designed. She has consulted with organizations like McDonald's on animal welfare guidelines, and has received numerous prestigious awards, in addition to a 2011 TIME Magazine "100 Most Influential People" designation. She has authored multiple bestselling books, including "The Way I See It" and "Thinking in Pictures." In 2010, an Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning HBO movie was made about her life and career. A past board member for the Autism Society of America, she travels the globe lecturing to parents and teachers on her experiences with autism. Now, Dr. Grandin takes the stage to share her story of perseverance and the power of "differently-abled brains."

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2018 Frederick Speaker Series can be found at FrederickSpeakerSeries.org.

ABOUT THE FREDERICK SPEAKER SERIES

Since its inception in 2013, the Frederick Speaker Series has featured notable personalities such as Dr. Michio Kaku, Cal Ripken Jr., General Colin Powell, Tom Brokaw, Bryan Stevenson, George Takei, Bill Nye, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

This year's series, event, and media sponsors include the Ausherman Family Foundation, C. Burr Artz Trust, Leidos, The Randall Family Trust, The Delaplaine Foundation, PNC Bank, The Kiplinger Foundation, Graphcom, Frederick Magazine, and The Frederick News-Post. Presenting sponsors include the Weinberg Center for the Arts and Frederick County Public Libraries.

For further information about the Frederick Speaker Series, including speaker biographies, ticket availability, pricing, and the meet-and-greet receptions, please visit FrederickSpeakerSeries.org.

ABOUT THE WEINBERG CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is one of the region's premier performing arts presenters, offering film, music, dance, theater, and family-focused programming. Located in the historic Tivoli movie theater in downtown Frederick, Md., the Weinberg Center strives to ensure that the arts remain accessible and affordable to local and regional audiences alike. Weinberg Center events are made possible with major support from the City of Frederick, the Maryland State Arts Council, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, and other corporate and individual donors.

Photos available upon request.

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