

wexner center
for the arts

For Immediate Release

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**FLAMBOYANT ANTONY AND THE JOHNSONS PERFORM TWISTED
TORCH SONGS IN CABARET SETTING AT THE WEXNER CENTER**

TUNES INCLUDE "I FELL IN LOVE WITH A DEAD BOY," "BE MY HUSBAND"

**"When he sings it is the most exquisite thing you will ever hear in your life."—
Laurie Anderson**

In what is sure to be one of the most unforgettable shows of the year, the flamboyant **Antony and the Johnsons** brings their cabaret show to the Wexner Center **Saturday, February 9 at 8 pm**. The show will be held in the Performance Space, which will be set up with tables, chairs, and a cash bar. Due to limited space, tickets to this recently announced show are expected to sell quickly.

Fronting a nine-piece mock-chamber orchestra, British-born New York drag scene star Antony offers inspired readings of such classic torch songs as Nina Simone's *Be My Husband* and Lou Reed's *Candy Says*, as well as originals, including the cult fave *I Fell in Love with a Dead Boy*. His chamber orchestra includes strings, piano, and percussion, a bit of dance, and a "hostess," the albino Japanese hermaphrodite Dr. Julia Yasudo.

Attired in flouncy finery, shaven head painted white, Antony has an unsettling stage presence amplified by his ethereal, quavery voice. Although Antony's persona is decidedly left-of-center, his voice is eerily beautiful and deeply affecting emotionally. Earlier in his career, Antony was a mainstay on the New York after-hours drag performance circuit. Since then, he has crossed over to cabaret clubs and concert halls, earning raves from all quarters.

"Listening to Antony's voice is like hearing Elvis for the first time: two words and he has broken your heart," said Laurie Anderson. *The New York Times* called him "one of Manhattan's most interesting local performers," taking a "cabaret and theatrical approach to his material, adding a good dark twist." And singer Diamanda Galas has said of Antony, "Every emotion in the planet is in that gorgeous voice."

news release

Antony appeared in the Steve Buscemi film *Animal Factory*, performing as an androgynous convict singing *Rapture*; he has also recorded vocals for Lou Reed's next CD. This winter his group is touring the United States to promote its self-titled album *I Fell in Love with a Dead Boy*, its third CD. For more information on Antony and the Johnsons, visit www.antonyandthejohnsons.com.

EVENT SUPPORT

Lead support for the Wexner Center's 2001-02 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**. Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.** Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION for Antony and the Johnsons

Description: Flamboyant Antony and the Johnsons perform its torch songs in the Wexner Center Performance Space.

Date and time: Saturday, February 9 at 8 pm.

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, set up cabaret-style with cash bar.

Tickets: \$16 general public / \$14 members, OSU students

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Images available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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