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Show at Paramount to Feature MoGa, Unique Mobile Gallery

AURORA-Illinois (March 16, 2009) Get up close and personal with MoGa, a portable 10-panel photo gallery created by Jimi Allen Productions of Aurora. The display will be featured at a show open to the public at no charge in the Paramount Theatre's Grand Gallery the end of this month.

The show kicks off on Friday, March 27, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., as part of Aurora Downtown's multimedia ArtWalk. This participatory event is produced by the Cultural Creatives, an ad hoc group of downtown artists, business and property owners who have a common interest in promoting the creative arts in Aurora by encouraging an arts-friendly environment.

For Jimi Allen Productions, the event continues on Saturday, March 28, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., with an all-day exhibit and reception in the Grand Gallery at the Paramount. Visitors will experience a variety of compelling images. Three examples of MoGa, the new mobile gallery from Jimi Allen, will be showcased on the main floor, one of which is the worldwide touring exhibit of photos from China for TEAM, The Evangelical Alliance Mission. Larger-than-life portraits of Pakistani youth also will be open for viewing on the second floor.

According to Allen, "MoGa is art on legs." The name is short for Mobile Gallery and is a free-standing exhibit designed to be an innovative way for organizations to captivate and inspire their audiences, whether they are clients, the public, employees, or potential donors. Area residents, businesses, art students, and arts aficionados will have the opportunity on March 27 and 28 to get a firsthand look at three different installations of this unique concept, which Allen described as a "tool for communication."

Diana Martinez, Executive Director of the Paramount, said she was "thrilled to have Jimi Allen's work in the Gallery. Jimi doesn't just shoot photography, he looks into people deeper and with one click of the shutter, he captures an impression that demonstrates their role in society, and mankind. I know it sounds deep, but when you see his work, you understand. The images are blown up so large, and they look so rich, that you can see the reflections of their surroundings in their eyes. It's very impressive."

Jimi Allen Productions offers a mix of photography, video, and design. Although their customers span the full gamut, from individuals to large corporations, both private and not-for-profit organizations, their mission is the same for each – create compelling imagery that takes the viewer inside the subject matter to tell the story that words alone can't. According to Allen, "We have traveled all over the world to document the lives of others." Whether producing for travel
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and tourism, missions and special purpose, company reports, medical, fashion, wedding, or lifestyle magazines, Allen's group strives to "capture moments that tell stories."

Writing about another of Jimi Allen's photography exhibits entitled Being Human, when he visited a display at the Middletown Fine Arts Center in Ohio, Lee Horvitz, art critic and assistant professor of philosophy at Miami University, Ohio, said this, "Allen's timing shows in his unteachable artistry, releasing the image's energy rather than freezing it. One participates in rather than observes his images. A chestnut of photography theory is that the photographer's trace hides in every photograph, like an imaginary Hitchcock cameo. Allen goes one better by enclosing the viewer in the image."

Originally from Ohio, Allen has resided in Aurora for the past 10 years. He holds two bachelor degrees and an M.A. in Visual Communications. Other team members include Jon McGrath, Guy Silagi, David Vosburg, and Kate Wagner. Their combination of training and expertise in design and illustration, photography and video, marketing and both print and web communications, plus their ability to collaborate, allows nearly all projects to be completed locally in-house.

Guitar entertainment and a cash bar will also be available for attendees to enjoy during the March 28 reception event. Jimi Allen and professional staff from the studios will be on hand throughout the day to answer any questions about photography, graphic design, and the critical aspects of the content of the MoGa exhibits. If interest warrants, on-the-spot mini-seminars will be provided.

Jimi Allen Productions is housed in studios on the second floor of the building at 76 South LaSalle Street in downtown Aurora.

For questions about the March 27-28 exhibit and reception, for more information about MoGa, or to schedule a private showing, interested parties may call 630-801-1644, or visit www.jimiallen.com.

ABOUT THE AACVB:

The Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the tourism marketing and management organization for Aurora, Batavia, Hinckley, North Aurora, Montgomery, Plano, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. This not-for-profit organization provides numerous travel resources to visitors via the Web site at www.enjoyaurora.com and a toll-free number 1-800-477-4369