



TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2011

## The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia International Tattoo Special Audience Night Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 PM

The Virginia International Tattoo will open the arena on Wednesday, April 27th for Special Audience Night as part of the **Virginia Arts Festival's** community outreach initiative. Working in partnership with the Faith Inclusion Network (FIN), the Tattoo organizers and the Virginia Arts Festival's Education Department are working with civic and community organization throughout Hampton Roads to reach individuals with special needs and their families. The Tattoo features an international cast of over 900 performers from seven countries and is one of the Festival's signature events.

"Special Audience Night is the perfect opportunity for those in our community who have physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, to enjoy a world class show in an accepting and accommodating atmosphere," said Karen Jackson, FIN President and Founder and wife to Virginia International Tattoo Producer/Director, Scott Jackson. "Our daughter, Samantha, who happens to have autism, has been a joy to watch as she sings, dances, and excitedly jumps into the air while watching the

Virginia International Tattoo. She has inspired us to reach out to the disability community and offer this unique musical experience to those who might not normally be able to attend."

This is the first Tattoo Special Audience Night scheduled as part of the Festival's season. Special accommodations include an open seating plan in the arena, accessible seating areas, and the ability to come and go from the performance as

needed. "The Tattoo is a wonderful family event and I'm happy that we have found a way to reach out to families that might have difficulty attending theatrical events," said Scott Jackson.

The 15th Virginia International Tattoo is presented in Norfolk's Scope Arena from April 29 to May 1 as part of the Virginia Arts Festival's 15th Season Celebration. This astounding display of pageantry has become a beloved Virginia tradition offering new and exciting performances by military artists from around the globe. The 2011 Tattoo features performers from Australia, Canada, Germany, Nepal, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



