

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2008

Michael Israel Art in Concert  
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Fort Wayne, IN:

On Saturday night, February 9, at 7:30 p.m., famed international artist **Michael Israel** will perform a live 'ART IN CONCERT' show at the Scottish Rite Center auditorium. The artist will be performing a number of 6 foot by 4 foot artworks onstage including one of his signature artworks, "Hero" depicting a fire fighter rescuing a young child, during the Ft. Wayne stop of his Heroes and Icons Tour.

The creation of the live artworks promises to bring the crowd to their feet, cheering, applauding, and at times, giving in to the flow of emotional tears. A performance video of "Hero" currently available on the internet via Youtube has been viewed by nearly 6 and half million new fans and resulted in numerous invitations by First Responder related groups around the country. Michael's "Hero" painting is quickly becoming an artwork with a potential billion dollar impact, inspiring a national tour to benefit Burn Camps, Burn Foundations and local First Responder related charities.

Following Michael Israel's performance, a live auction of the performed artworks will be conducted to raise funds for two local charities, the **Northeast Indiana Burn Council** and the **Public Safety Foundation of Northeast Indiana**. **Michael Israel** will be performing a private performance of "Hero" earlier in the day at the **Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana's** Grand Opening of Fire Training. The painting performed in the morning will be presented to officials for display at the new Academy facility.

Tickets for the Fort Wayne event on February 9<sup>th</sup> are on sale beginning Wednesday at noon for \$25.00 online at [www.michaelisrael.com](http://www.michaelisrael.com) and at the following locations in Fort Wayne:

**Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana**  
7602 Patriot Crossing  
Hours M-F, 8-5

**Firefighters' Museum**  
226 W Washington Blvd

Hours M-F 10-4, Sat 10-3

**Fire/Police City/County Federal Credit Union**

**CLINTON STREET OFFICE:**

3306 North Clinton Street

Hours M-Th 9-5 F 9- 5:30

**ST. JOE VILLAGE OFFICE**

6154 St. Joe Center Road

Hours M,Tu,Th,Fr 9-5 W 9 -5

**JEFFERSON POINTE OFFICE**

4705 Illinois Road Suite 118

Hours M,Tu,Th,Fr 9-5 W 9:30-5

**CITY COUNTY OFFICE:**

City-County Building, B32 1 East Main Street

Hours M,Tu,Th,Fr 8:30 - 4:30 W 9:30 - 4:30

**POLICE OFFICE:**

1320 East Creighton Avenue

Hours M,Tu,Th,Fr 8:30 - 4:30 W 9:30 - 4:30

A limited number of VIP tickets, which include preferred seating, a pre-show reception with the artist and a collectible Michael Israel artwork are on sale for \$250. through the local charities listed below.

All ticket purchasers to the Scottish Rite Center event will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win an original 6'x4' canvas created by Michael Israel. That artwork has a retail price of \$25,000. The winning raffle ticket holder must be present at the event to win. Additional raffle tickets are available for purchase for \$5. at the Firefighter's Museum.

For ticket and show information call 260-439-8200 between 8am and 5pm

**Michael Israel** has performed with Garth Brooks, Jay Leno, Tony Robbins, Brooks & Dunn, on Olympic stages, at presidential galas in Washington DC, and he is a popular choice for Fortune 100 corporate events. In the last few months, he has shared stages with celebrities and heroes including Bruce Springsteen and E Street bandmates Max Weinberg and Clarence Clemons, Donald Trump, Kevin Costner, wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afganistan and the Vancouver Canucks; these recent performances and artwork have helped raise over a million dollars at charitable events. A single piece of art performed in 5 minutes has brought as much as \$250,000 at auction.

Those who have seen Michael Israel's spectacular performances have attempted to explain the experience by creating hypothetical hybrids like, Cirque du Soleil meets Pablo Picasso, or part Monet, part David Copperfield, or even Blue Man Group. It may be sheer curiosity that initially captures the audience as Michael Israel's energy is instantly felt throughout. For many, it feels like it is almost a private performance. The increasing flow of energy passed between Michael and

his audience is an integral part of his performance, drawing the audience in as a participant rather than as a mere bystander.

### ***About The Charities:***

#### **Public Safety Foundation of Northeast Indiana, Inc.**

The Public Safety Foundation of Northeast Indiana, Inc. was organized as a not-for-profit in 2002 to support the Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana. Our Board's purpose is also to assist in building regional support, and identifying links between business, academia and First Responder training.

#### **Mission of the Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana**

The Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana is a regional facility that employs state of the art on site and distance learning training and education offerings for first responders and future public safety leaders. It employs innovative technology and best practices to provide the finest offerings to a 12 County Northeastern Indiana region. Specifically, its mission is as follows:

1. Deliver integrated public safety training to over 5000 regional 1st responders. This training is delivered by a host of local, state and federally certified trainers utilizing the best practices in subject content and instruction delivery.
2. Provide education for future public safety leaders in a dynamic learning environment. This education will be delivered by an educational consortium of 1 regional career program High School (Anthis Career Center), a State level Community College (Ivy Tech) and 5 accredited 4 year Colleges and Universities (Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne, Tri-State University, Indiana Tech University, Taylor University and St Francis University). These institutions will not only provide individual courses, certificate and degree programs, but will collaborate on the creation of a new 4 year degree in Emergency Response capitalizing on the strengths of each school's program(s).
3. Employ best practices and innovative technology in public safety training and education. In concert with the Department of Defense's Technology Transfer Program, the Academy will employ the latest 1st responder equipment and serve as a beta test site for new innovations coming out of the national laboratories. Additionally, the synergy of trainer and educator will provide for the fusion of the theoretical and practical applications of 1st responder careers. All of this will be supported by a national guest speaker program highlighting the latest innovations in tactics, techniques, technology and procedures across the emergency response spectrum.

## **NORTHEAST INDIANA BURN COUNCIL**

The Vision of the Northeast Indiana Burn Council, Inc. is to prevent burns and help those affected by Burn Trauma heal, both physically and mentally.

### **Mission:**

The mission of the Northeast Indiana Burn Council, Inc. is to reducing burn incidents and increasing the positive medical and social outcomes for burn survivors.

### **Supporting Statement:**

The Burn Council exists to help children, adults and families affected by a burn incident. We like to say that we "help with the healing during and after the hospital", providing financial, in-kind and other assistance to Burn Survivors and their families.

### **History:**

When St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was sold in 1999 to a for-profit entity, members of the community formed the Northeast Indiana Burn Council, Inc. in 2001 to provide prevention activities and support for burn victims.

Now in our sixth year, the Burn Council is a non-profit dedicated to reducing burn incidents and increasing positive medical and social outcomes for burn survivors in Northern Indiana, Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. The Burn Council educates the public about burn prevention as well as provides support to the poor and underserved that are survivors of burns.

### **Affiliation:**

The Burn Council is a separate, 501c3 non-profit entity and is not affiliated with St. Joseph Hospital or its Regional Burn Center. However, as the only nationally verified burn center in Indiana, the Regional Burn Center staff will refer burn victims needing assistance to the Burn Council and most victims of burns will have been treated by the Regional Burn Center.

### **Programs and Activities:**

NEINBC provides the following three program areas:

1. Burn Prevention Education: recognizing that most burns are preventable by education, NEINBC works to prevent burns and burn-potential situations with children and adults. NEINBC also works to compliment existing prevention programs to enhance the overall delivery of services to the community.

2. Burn Survivor Assistance: established to help burn survivors and their families with limited financial means, this program provides reduced or free treatment supplies and burn garments for outpatient burn survivors as well as temporary housing, food and other needs for families of inpatient burn victims. This program also provides assistance to individuals and families wishing to attend the World Burn Congress in the Fall, trains peer support counselors and helps coordinate the Support Group for Burn Survivors & Families.

3. Youth Burn Camp: to help facilitate interaction with other children who are burn survivors, this program helps underwrite the cost to send youth burn survivors from Northeast Indiana, Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan to a youth Burn Camp.

In addition to these existing programs, NEINBC plans to initiate other needed activities to provide for the financial, physical and mental well-being of burn survivors.

**About Michael Israel:**

"Kindness is always a masterpiece."

Author unknown

What if art could not only educate and inspire, but to a greater extent, raise immediate funds to eradicate a disease, assist disaster victims and provide assistance to any number of other causes?

It is one thing to have incredible artistic talent, the ability to paint in a style both unique and intriguing all the while creating an elaborate spectacle. It is an even greater feat to be able to use that talent to reach others and touch them in a positive fashion. While these attributes and capabilities are true for Michael Israel, it is not enough to entertain for the sheer pleasure of the experience. It is not enough to revel in the financial reward and notoriety. He has chosen a more difficult less traveled path and uses his artistic gifts and ability to evoke overwhelming feelings of empathy for others that extends beyond the customary avenues. He shares his good fortune and creative passion by focusing his energy where it can truly make a difference in the lives of others.

Michael has performed for countless charities. His involvement has evolved over the years as he has learned and grown from his involvement. Michael often reflects back to a particularly humbling time when, early in his career, his charitable contributions had taken on far more than his time and finances would allow. At a particularly low point, Israel suffered the loss of his studio and went broke. A wiser man emerged from the experience equipped with the same strong commitment to his humanitarian efforts and impressively innovative programs to optimize each event. His creative vision spills over into a bottom-line driven focus to secure sponsor dollars, obtain and maximize positive media

and press, and increase event attendance and ticket sales. His aid accomplishes these things by providing world-class entertainment with artwork that has commanded tremendous sums in charitable support.

The most obvious benefit to Michael's programs is the magnificent, inspirational art that is the end result of his performance. His paintings are often pre-sold, and many are sold at auction for tens of thousands. The list of private collectors continues to grow, with many buyers adding to their collections through donations dedicated to a specific charity. An organization fortunate enough to be able to include Michael Israel's performance in their event quickly understands that his magic reaches much farther than symbolic imagery that tugs at the heart strings and wallets of its attendees.

Possibly it is Michael's innate ability to delve into each creation, through movement and music that delivers a message more profound than any still piece of imagery could begin to convey. Passion for his work, and compassion for a cause fuse together for an energy that begs enlightenment and understanding on a new plateau. To witness any of Michael Israel's programs is to surrender to the energy, the exhilaration, and the unmitigated emotion generated by his unique style. One must only experience his performance to realize that it is an emotional odyssey like no other, the result of which is a newfound insight into that particular cause, and it touches each member of the audience on a personal level.

Many of his signature pieces have become highly recognized, important images for a number of causes. "Hero", a 9/11 tribute depicting a firefighter rescuing a frightened child. "Legacy" has been referred to as the most beautiful, meaningful pink sneaker in the world. Israel's beautiful, "Say Goodnight, Not Goodbye" is a poignant, tender Tsunami tribute that eases the trauma of loss with the idea that beauty is found in the life's darkest moments. It reminds us that growth and rebirth are inevitable after devastation, and most of all, that love cannot be destroyed by nature's threats. "My Big Brother" signifies the tremendous significance and impact of a strong adult presence in the life of a child during the formative years.

Michael's performances raise awareness, goodwill, and funds on a grand scale. Certainly, these achievements alone are the purpose in orchestrating such events and yet, through Michael's moving, compelling program, he reaches beyond the usual altruistic endeavors and reaches a little more deeply, clearly, and honestly on a more personal scope. Whether he is performing for Special Olympics, the American Red Cross, Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation, City of Hope, or countless other charitable organizations, one thing is certain, Michael Israel knows how to reach his audience, and he touches boldly, deeply, and succinctly. His generosity and compassion are evident and make for a rewarding experience for all.

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