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## Arts, sciences and deep thinking take center stage in Pasadena festival

By Janette Williams, Staff Writer  
Posted: 10/22/2009 05:01:19 PM PDT

PASADENA - With the theme of "Origins" - tying in with Charles Darwin's upcoming 200th birthday and the 150-year anniversary of "Origin of Species" - Pasadena's fifth biennial festival of arts and ideas kicks off its two-week run today.

The festival's line-up of exhibitions, theater, dance, music, visual art, poetry, film, interactive workshops and children's performances, plus the "Ideas" component of discussions and debates, will be staged at venues throughout the city through Nov. 9.

"We do this every two years, so it's the 10th anniversary, and as in the past we have the local arts, science and culture groups as partners, producing their own exhibitions, lectures, performances and other related activities," said Terry LeMoncheck, executive director of the Pasadena Arts Council, which organizes the event.

"We love to collaborate in Pasadena, there's such a wealth of great cultural, science and humanities institutions here," LeMoncheck said. "And when you put all these people in the same room, really wonderful ideas spring up almost immediately."

The "Origins" theme threads through the festival, and 15 local arts, cultural and science institutions - including The Gamble House, the Huntington Library, Art Center College of Design and Fuller Theological Seminary - will cover everything from the origins of the universe to the diverse origins of families in Pasadena.

"Our theme is about much more than evolution in the strict sense - it's about exploring the idea of 'the beginning,' because as humans we have this need to understand how things started, where they come from," LeMoncheck said.

"With the great debate in this country on evolution and 'intelligent design,' we asked Fuller to participate," LeMoncheck said. "We didn't want this to be strictly Darwin, we wanted everyone at the table."

Festival highlights include the world premiere of the Theatre @ Boston Court's "God Save Gertrude," a musical

examining the origins of political dissent; "Family Stories: Sharing a Community's Legacy" at Pasadena Museum of History; and NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope Science Center's exploration of the origins of the universe, including scientific demonstrations, "Ask an Astronomer," at One Colorado.

Many events are free, and tickets for some events will be sold at the venue, LeMoncheck said.

"We continue to celebrate the nexus of art and science in Pasadena," she said. "There's almost no city in the world with the concentration of those two cultural assets."

For complete information on the program of events, go to [artideasfestival.org](http://artideasfestival.org).

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Pasadena-based Lineage Dance will perform "The Brain in Motion," an original work by Artistic Director Hilary Thomas, at the Pacific Asia Museum on Nov. 5 as part of the "Origins" theme of the two-week Arts & Ideas Festival, opening Friday. (Courtesy Photo)



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Dan Lewis, Curator of the History of Science, will present "Darwin and his Discontents, a lecture about the challenges Darwin faced in publishing On the Origin of Species 150 years ago at The Huntington Library's Friends Hall. (Courtesy Photo)

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