

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE TIMES SQUARE ALLIANCE
AND THE POETRY SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PRESENT**

**BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG VERSE:
POEMS OF TIMES SQUARE**

A FREE-TO-ENTER poetry contest celebrating Times Square

5 Winners receive \$1,000 and a trip to Times Square for a public reading

(New York, NY- February 4, 2008) The Poetry Society of America and the Times Square Alliance have joined forces to create the first-ever contest for poems about Times Square and the urban qualities it represents.

Entries from across the country will be accepted through March 1, 2008. Five winners will receive \$1,000 each, plus a trip to New York City to read their winning poems at a May event in Times Square. The contest is free to enter.

The panel of judges is comprised of some of the most notable and accomplished names in the literary world today. Judges for the contest include *Best American Poetry* Series Editor David Lehman; Tracie Morris, former champion of the Nuyorican Grand Slam and National Haiku Slam and Alice Quinn, Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America and former Poetry Editor at *The New Yorker*.

For full entry rules and submission guidelines, please visit www.TimesSquareNYC.org.

“Times Square represents many different things to many different people – a mix of commerce and culture, desire and design, urban life and mainstream American life, aspiration and celebration, to name a few,” said Tim Tompkins, President of the Times Square Alliance. “I look forward to seeing how some of our language’s best poets choose to capture that in words.”

“What a delightful challenge to poets everywhere. The contest and the reading should both prove exhilarating and a fantastic homage to our city,” said Alice Quinn, Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America.

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The Poetry Society of America (PSA) was founded on October 10, 1910 for the purpose of creating a public forum for the advancement, enjoyment, dissemination, and understanding of poetry. PSA programs foster our mission – to place poetry at the crossroads of American life – by raising public awareness of poetry, deepening the understanding of it, and encouraging more people to become readers and writers of poetry. In its 97th year, the PSA continues to bring diverse poetry programming that is accessible, engaging, vital in concept and broad in scope to myriad audiences.

Times Square Alliance, founded in 1992, works to improve and promote Times Square. In addition to providing safety and sanitation services, the Alliance coordinates many major events in Times Square including New Year's Eve, manages an Information Center and advocates on behalf of its constituents with respect to a host of public policy, planning and quality of life issues. For more information, log onto www.timessquarenyc.org.