

## Wavy Gravy to Perform September 30 at Brandeis University

This year the Center for International Development at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, is hosting a series of special events on the Arts, Development, and Social Change.

The series will kick off on September 30 with the visit of Wavy Gravy. Mr. Gravy, as *The New York Times* refers to him, will perform Saturday, September 30, from 4 to 6 PM at the Shapiro Auditorium on the Brandeis campus in Waltham. Cost of admission is \$10, and tickets will be sold at the door starting at 3 PM. For information, contact Rhoderick K. Samonte at 203-300-1776 or email [dick@brandeis.edu](mailto:dick@brandeis.edu) or call 781-736-3891.

Well-known US activist Wavy Gravy uses humor and performance art to promote social change, personal transformation, and community mobilization. With his wife Jahanara, he directs Camp Winnarainbow, a performing arts program for children.

Wavy also organizes all-star rock concerts to raise money for a variety of environmental, progressive, political, and charitable causes, most notably Seva, a foundation he co-founded in 1978, initially to combat preventable and curable blindness in the Third World.

With locally run sight programs in India, Nepal, and Tibet, Seva provides more than 80,000 eye surgeries a year. It also establishes partnerships in Native American communities to tackle the rising epidemic of diabetes; supports work for sustainable agriculture in Chiapas, Mexico; and monitors violence against refugees of the civil strife in Guatemala.

James O'Dea, executive director of Seva, says: "We live in a time when, in some ways, there has been a certain unscrupulous use of morality and family values and official religion and righteousness in the public domain. What a remarkable contrast to [Wavy] who spends the summer with inner city kids and the kids of homeless people, teaching them circus performing arts. He is clearly a person who does his own inner spiritual work in a very persistent way and then matches it with his walk in the world."

A full-length documentary film on the life of Wavy Gravy is currently in production. The film will feature interviews by many of his friends including Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, Bob Weir, Steve Earle, and many others.

Named Wavy Gravy by blues legend B.B.King, he may be best known to millions as a cosmic cut-up and the inspiration for a Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor. But it is because of his good work on behalf of the planet and its least fortunate residents that Wavy Gravy has achieved his own brand of sainthood. The Grateful Dead's Bob Weir said "he's a saint in a clown suit," and satirist Paul Krassner has called him "the illegitimate son of Harpo Marx and Mother Teresa."

People who spend time with Wavy Gravy quickly discover that he's a walking public service announcement for positive social change and compassion. Wavy himself says: "Once you realize the interconnectedness of all stuff, there's no going back. I have an old line, 'We are all the same person trying to shake hands with our self.' Remember that the next time you say, 'pass the gravy.'"