

# Wyclef Jean and Miri Ben-Ari to Lead Phoenix House Tribute to Lisa Ellis of Fireman Capital Partners and Carnival House Recordings

*Phoenix Rising Award* Dinner to Benefit Phoenix House

The Plaza, New York, March 30, 2009, 6:30 PM

NEW YORK, March 18 /PRNewswire/ -- **Wyclef Jean**, the Grammy Award-winning musician, producer, and humanitarian, will join **Fireman Capital Partners** Chairman and former Reebok CEO **Paul Fireman**, **Dan Fireman**, **Shaquille O'Neal**, **Eli Manning**, **Michael Strahan**, **Rick Fox**, and other stars from music, sports, and business to honor **Lisa Ellis** of Fireman Capital Partners and **Carnival House Recordings**.

Ms. Ellis will receive the *2009 Phoenix Rising Award*, to be presented by **Phoenix House** on March 30th, 2009. The annual *Phoenix Rising Award* Dinner will be held at The Plaza in New York to raise money for Phoenix House, one of the world's leading non-profit drug and alcohol addiction, prevention, and treatment organizations. Past recipients include **Russell Simmons**, hip-hop artist and business mogul, and **Jeff Zucker**, President and CEO of NBC Universal.

"Lisa Ellis is one of the most influential women in the music industry, and she has become a staunch advocate of Phoenix House and our programs," says **Howard P. Meitiner**, Phoenix House President and CEO. "The arts, entertainment, and fashion industries are vitally important to encourage positive and responsible behavior among young people, and that is why we established this award."

**Wyclef Jean** adds, "Jerry 'Wonda' Duplessis and I are excited to be supporting our partner in Carnival House, the great Lisa Ellis. Phoenix House is an incredible organization helping people change their lives. Lisa, Jerry, and I were able to have one of our new artists, Niia, debut at a Phoenix House event in October. We look forward to Carnival House continuing to not only entertain, but support Phoenix House while doing so!"

Ms. Ellis helped develop the careers of Prince, Beyonce, The Fugees, Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean, John Legend, Nas, Destiny's Child, Maxwell, Terrence Howard, and many others in her roles as Executive Vice President of Sony Music Label Group and President of Sony Urban Music. She and Wyclef Jean founded Carnival House to develop new

music, publishing, and film projects. Ms. Ellis is also a Founding Operating Partner of Fireman Capital Partners.

**Miri Ben-Ari**, the Israeli-born, classically-trained "Hip-Hop Violinist" and Grammy Award-winning songwriter will perform at the dinner, along with a special acoustic performance by **Wyclef Jean** and a taped tribute from **Shaquille O'Neal**. Ms. Ben-Ari's collaborations with artists such as John Legend, Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Wyclef Jean have helped sell millions of records.

Dinner Chairs are **Paul Fireman**, Chairman, and **Dan Fireman**, Managing Partner of Fireman Capital Partners. Co-Chairs are **Rose Marie Bravo**, former CEO of Burberry; **Wyclef Jean**, musician; **Eli Manning**, 2008 Super Bowl MVP and New York Giants Quarterback; **Shaquille O'Neal**, NBA "All-Star" Center for the Phoenix Suns, rapper, and actor; **Richard Plepler**, Co-President of HBO; **Jeff Ross**, Executive Producer of *The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien*; and **Andrew M. Spellman**, Partner of Fireman Capital Partners.

Other members of the Host Committee include **Sarah Chapman**, **Rick Fox**, **Cristie Kerr** and **Erik Stevens**, **John Legend**, **David Lipman**, **Will McDonough**, **Shaun O'Hara**, **Shari Redstone**, **Aaron Sells**, **Robert Souza**, **Michael Strahan**, **Wes Welker**, **Gus Williams**, and **Josh Zeide**.

**Phoenix House** is one of the nation's leading non-profit substance abuse prevention and treatment service organizations, serving close to 7,500 men, women (including women with children), and teens each day at more than 152 drug and alcohol treatment and prevention programs in 10 states - California, Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, and Vermont. For information visit [www.phoenixhouse.org](http://www.phoenixhouse.org).

For information on ticket sales, please contact Stacy Johnson at 212-997-0100.