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HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Houston Center for Photography Presents SPIN5: *Flashdance!*

with *Leigh Boone's Pickins*, a raffle to benefit the Leigh Boone Scholarship Fund

HOUSTON, TX – On Friday, August 28, 2009 from 8-11pm, HCP will host its 5th annual *SPIN* party, *Flashdance!* a friendraiser that provides the Houston community with a great opportunity to celebrate summer, enjoy good company, and collectively contribute towards the creation of a creative experience. This year's theme is inspired by the 1983 film *Flashdance*, directed by Adrian Lynne and starring Jennifer Beals. DJ Shoe will spin songs from the era, with projections from the film itself setting the mood for the party. Kelly Myernick, first soloist with the Houston Ballet and other members of the company will perform and instruct enthusiastic crowd-goers to learn an 80's inspired dance piece. A surprise performance is scheduled for later in the evening. Attendees are also invited to rock out on the "dance pole" and ballet barres installed for the event. The party isn't complete without photography; attendees can pose in front of 80's themed backdrops, and are invited to contribute '80s-style pictures to be installed or projected on HCP's walls. The best image which features the photographer as a performer will be included in the upcoming HCP exhibition, *Artist as Performer,* on view at HCP from September 10 - November 8. Call for entries information is posted on HCP's web site, www.hcponline.org. E-mailed submissions must be received by August 10.

Opening Reception at HCP, 1989
Photo courtesy of Ben Desoto

The theme for *SPIN5: Flashdance!* was inspired by former HCP Executive Assistant Leigh Boone, who passed away on April 11, 2009 following a two-week arduous battle in ICU. While bicycling to work, Leigh was struck when two fire trucks collided at an intersection near her home. She loved the performing and visual arts, was a fan of the 80's, and lives on in spirit.

Leigh Boone at the Bayou City Art Festival partners appreciation reception, 2008.
Photo courtesy of Rachel Hewlett

SPIN5: Flashdance! also features *Leigh Boone's Pickins*, a raffle to benefit the Leigh Boone Scholarship Fund. Like many who work in the arts, Leigh spent many years interning after college in preparation for her career. She interned at the Julliard School, White Box, Jacob's Pillow, and Lawndale Arts Center, among many other spaces. This fund provides scholarships to Americans like Leigh who recently completed and/or are completing internships in the visual or performing arts and need extra assistance to help make ends meet. This fund was created by Leigh's family and is presently administered by the Houston Center for Photography. Raffle tickets are $2 and $10, prizes include artwork by Louviere + Vanessa and others, gift certificates to restaurants and shops in the Houston area including Wish and Duo.

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Special thanks to *SPIN5* event sponsors Real Ale; Antonio Manega, Gazer Design Group; Masterpiece Litho; DJ Shoe; Taco del Gordo.

About the Houston Center for Photography
HCP's mission is to increase society's understanding and appreciation of photography and its evolving role in contemporary culture. HCP strives to encourage artists, build audiences, stimulate dialogue, and promote inquiry about photography and related media through education, exhibitions, publications, fellowship programs, and community collaboration. HCP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving as a resource to its members and the community with programs that have regional and national impact.

HCP is located at 1441 West Alabama in the Museum District of Houston. The hours are: Wednesday and Friday from 11 am to 5 pm, Thursday from 11 am to 9 pm, and weekends from noon to 6 pm. For more information, please call 713.529.4755 or visit www.hcponline.org.

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