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AIMEE MULLINS, AMPUTEE, WORLD-CLASS ATHLETE, ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST FOR WOMEN, SPORTS AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF PROSTHETICS TO COMMENCE 2009 NO BARRIERS FESTIVAL AT SHAKE-A-LEG MIAMI AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mullins – one of People Magazine’s “50 Most Beautiful People” – to speak at Opening Ceremony June 4, 2009

COCONUT GROVE, FL (April 27, 2009)- [No Barriers USA](#) and [Shake-A-Leg Miami](#) today announced [Aimee Mullins](#) will deliver the Keynote Address to commence the [2009 No Barriers Festival](#) being hosted at [Shake-A-Leg Miami’s](#) sea base in Coconut Grove June 4-7. Mullins, a bilateral below-the-knee amputee and world-class athlete, activist, actress and model, will challenge society’s perceptions of disability by sharing stories of physical disability, courage, style and notoriety at the Opening Ceremony on June 4 to commence Miami’s first-ever No Barriers Festival.

The No Barriers Festival, a unique international, multi-day event that combines land and water-based adaptive sports with cutting-edge techniques and technologies, enables people with challenges to live as actively as possible and to break through their own personal barriers. The four-day Festival of symposiums, interactive clinics, keynote speakers, films, roundtables and innovations will strive to replace recurring perceptions about disability and personal challenges, with a renewed belief in what is and what will be possible.

A passionate speaker, Mullins’ direct words are as applicable both to the able-bodied and the disabled: "Beauty is when people radiate that they like themselves." Her life supports her message. Mullins' legs were amputated as an infant, but with the help of the most advanced artificial prosthetics, she learned to walk then run. Mullins set world records in the 100-meter, 200-meter dash and the long jump at the Paralympics in Atlanta, GA, in 1996, and changed the way people view people with disabilities in the years since.

Mullins defies conventional description, both on and off the track. The fact that she is bilateral below-the-knee amputee, born without fibula bones in both shins, has not hindered her success in any way. Off the track, she was one of three nationally chosen high school students to receive full scholarships awarded by the U.S. Department Defense. On the track, she was the first amputee to compete in NCAA division 1 track and field. In May 1998, she graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, a dean's list double major in history and diplomacy.

Since the Atlanta Paralympics and her Georgetown graduation, Mullins' life has changed dramatically. News of her accomplishments and courage spread to millions around the world. She has been featured in *Sports Illustrated for Women*, NBC's *Dateline*, *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, *Parade*, *Esquire*, *Jane*, *Cosmopolitan* and was selected as one of *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People in the World." She won the "Disabled Female Athlete of the Year" from USA Track and Field, was 1997's "Women of Distinction" from the National Association of Women in Education and was a nominee for ESPN's Arthur Ashe Award for Courage. Aimee was named to the Disabled Sports USA Advisory Council and was nominated by Sen. Max Cleland for a position on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. She is also a Past-President of the Women's Sports Foundation. In 2008, she was the official Ambassador for the Tribeca/ESPN Sports Film Festival.

Her passion for running is equaled only by her drive and determination to make a difference in whatever she pursues. She says, "I want to do projects that challenge people's ideas of beauty and the myth that disabled people are less capable, less interesting. I want to expose people to disability as something that they can't pity or fear or closet, but something that they accept and maybe want to emulate."

Aimee Mullins is a passionate advocate for a new kind of thinking about prosthetics and believes human potential – and style - is limited by the mind and not the body. Need more proof? Mullins has over a dozen pairs of legs and, in the same way society chooses designer sunglasses; she chooses which legs to wear.

For more information on the 2009 No Barriers Festival, visit www.nobarriersusa.org. Early registration is available online or by mail through the end of May, with tickets beginning at \$75 for a full Festival weekend pass including all events, dinners on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and a pancake breakfast on Sunday. Partial scholarships are available for qualified individuals, caregivers and family members by contacting info@nobarriersusa.org.

To learn more about Aimee Mullins visit her website at www.aimeemullins.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About No Barriers USA

Conceived by a group of friends with a passion for the beautiful natural places of the world, No Barriers USA is a not-for-profit organization which assumes that each person, regardless of age, state of mind or physical condition, has a thirst for adventure and a hope for the future which is worthy of igniting. No Barriers is more than a name; it is the attitude of reaching out and finding ways to accomplish one's dreams, no matter what it takes. No Barriers is for all people, regardless of age, state of mind or physical condition. For more information visit www.nobarriersusa.org.

About Shake-A-Leg Miami

Shake-A-Leg Miami is a unique, community-based aquatic activities center that serves children and adults with physical, developmental and economic challenges. As one of the largest public facilities in Southern Florida, and one of the most inclusive community-based organizations in the nation, Shake-A-Leg Miami uses the natural environment of the water as an organic classroom for an education program that compliments water-based activities. The goal of Shake-A-Leg Miami is to empower and energize people by developing self-confidence and fostering a sense of independence that improves the quality of life. For more information on Shake-A-Leg Miami visit the Sea Base located at 2620 S. Bayshore Drive or online at www.shakealegmiami.org.

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