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Junior Players Future Stars Event Series Features Keynote Speaker Dean Fearing

DALLAS, TX, September 28, 2020 - Junior Players is excited to announce owner of Fearing's Restaurant, **Dean Fearing**, as our Keynote Speaker for our Future Stars Event on **December 2, 2020 at 7 pm CST**. Junior Players' incredible stakeholders and supporters will come together virtually to hear from Mr. Rodriguez and to raise money to empower over 15,000 young voices annually.

Creator of Fearing's Restaurant and author of The Texas Food Bible, Chef Dean Fearing is known as a "Father of Southwestern Cuisine" and has spent his life cooking for people who love good food.

The son of a Kentucky innkeeper, Dean grew up with grandmothers who knew all about food and who appreciated the finer details of Southern cooking and barbecue. He still uses and treasures their recipes, and they remain one of the most important inspirations of his culinary life. In fact, some of them receive their own unique spin in The Texas Food Bible – which Dean published in 2014.

After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America and following 20-plus years at The Mansion on Turtle Creek, Dean opened his own Fearing's Restaurant at The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas in 2007. Since then, he and his popular menu favorites have been featured in The New York Times, USA Today, Newsweek, Food and Wine, Southern Living, Forbes, Fox News, Bon Appétit, Garden & Gun, Robb Report, The Food Network, Guitar Aficionado and more. He was recently recognized as a "Pioneer of American Cuisine" by The Culinary Institute of America, and was also presented with the Silver Spoon Award for sterling performance by Food Arts.

Dean is a restaurateur who likes to spend as much time as possible at his restaurant. Most days, he can be spotted in Fearing's wearing a signature crisp white chef's coat with colorful boot embroidery, blue jeans and brightly-hued, custom-tooled Lucchese cowboy boots. When not in the kitchen, he is often found strumming his vintage Fender Telecaster guitar, one of a collection of several dozen guitars and amps, playing songs from the album created by his all-chef alternative country group, The Barbwires, or by his Dallas-based Lost Coyote Band. He is also known to spend his spare time searching the countryside for Texas culinary inspiration. The state's rich variety of peppers, dried chilies, jicama, cilantro, tomatillos, fruits and vegetables, cheeses, Gulf seafood and Hill Country wild game play a major role in Dean's ever-changing cuisine.

Sponsorship levels begin at \$1,000. Individual tickets are available for \$125 or at a Young Professionals Discount of \$100. To purchase or for more information, follow this link juniorplayers.org/futurestars. Current sponsors include Tyler Foundation, Thompson & Knight Foundation, Cathryn & William Kelly, Hoss Group Realty, Thompson Coburn LLP, Total IT, Kurtz & Company, P.C., Campagna Real Estate, DiAnn L'Roy Photographer, Don Herring Mitsubishi, Gupta & Wiora, P.C., HR Virtuoso, Ignite/Arts Dallas and SMU Meadows, Palter Sims Martinez PLLC, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Rebecca & Michael Massiatte, Rex Mills and Rosanne Messineo Mills, Rosaura Cruz, Sunflower Dental, The Art of Wine, The Tony Family, Tara The Wine Ranch, and Maguires Dallas.

Junior Players was founded in 1955, and is the oldest non-profit children's theater organization in Dallas. Over its sixty-five-year existence, Junior Players has strived to meet the changing needs of the community. From 1955 to 1989, Junior Players presented traditional children's theater productions performed entirely by children and teenagers. In 1989, the Board of Directors changed the focus of Junior Players activities, deciding that Junior Players can best serve the youth of Dallas by providing free programming accessible to all the children of North Texas. Junior Players exclusively provides free arts education programs in local recreation and cultural centers, housing projects, elementary and middle schools and through social service agencies serving youth at risk.

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