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**The award-winning international exhibition
Diana, A Celebration
to open March 4 at Union Station for a limited run**

Rare personal glimpse at life and work of Princess Diana

Photography of the exhibition is available for media use at

Diana.unionstation.org/diana-press-files.zip

KANSAS CITY, Mo., January 18, 2011 – The award-winning exhibition *Diana, A Celebration*, chronicling the life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales, will open at Union Station Kansas City on March 4th and will remain on view through June 12th. This is a rare and final opportunity to see this exhibition before it leaves North America to return to the Althorp Estate.

“We are honored to be chosen to present this important international exhibition to our community and the Midwest. We look forward to sharing a rare and moving experience for our visitors at Union Station,” said George Guastello, president and CEO of Union Station Kansas City. “The interest in and anticipation of the coming Royal Wedding in April will be a complement to our exhibition and allow area residents to experience in person some of the excitement and majesty.”

The exhibition presents the life and humanitarian work of one of the 20th century’s most remarkable women through nine galleries containing 150 objects — ranging from her royal wedding gown and 28 of her designer dresses to family heirlooms, personal mementos, paintings and rare home movies and photos. The exhibition is on loan from the Althorp Estate, the Spencer family’s 500-year-old ancestral home.

The exhibition is produced by Arts and Exhibitions International. All profits generated to the Althorp Estate from the exhibition will support the ongoing work of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund to benefit communities living with the legacy of landmines, cluster bombs and other explosive

remnants of war. Since 1998, the Exhibition at Althorp has generated over \$1,899,708.41 for charities supported by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

Diana, A Celebration, comes directly from the Althorp Estate in England, the Spencer Family's ancestral home, where it has been on display since 1998 and has attracted over 700,000 visitors, although open for only three months of the year.

The exhibition showcases the life and work of one of the most remarkable women of her time — certainly one of the most photographed, with over one billion television viewers who watched the 1981 Royal Wedding. Her charm, beauty and easy grace touched people worldwide during her short and complex life.

A series of 150 stunning objects chronicle her life and invite the visitor to share the milestones of her many roles: as a youngster, schoolgirl and athlete; as the shy kindergarten teacher who captured the heart of the Prince and the public; as the young, ravishing royal bride; as the devoted mother, sister and daughter; and as the tireless charity advocate and spokeswoman. The strength of the Spencer women and their roots in the bucolic 500-year-old Althorp Estate form the backdrop for Diana's formative years.

Also featured in the exhibition are portraits of her ancestors, family jewels, heirlooms, paintings, artifacts and photos, which provide the historical context. Home movies filmed by her father and scenes from her childhood, her engagement to Prince Charles and the events leading up to the Royal Wedding are remembered and animated with video clips, personal possessions, photos, displays and letters. The glorious Royal Wedding features her resplendent gown, diamond tiara, veil and 25 ft. train, shoes and parasol, her bridesmaid's dress among other items.

A few of the many dazzling items on display include:

- Over 20 dresses, suits and evening gowns worn by the Princess during her public life, accompanied by photos and designer details from the event at which the outfits were worn.
- Two diamond tiaras and other priceless family jewels.

- The original text of the Earl Spencer's moving tribute to his sister at the funeral in Westminster Abbey.
- The score and lyrics of the Elton John/Bernie Taupin composition, adapted from "*Candle in the Wind.*"
- Original heritage family paintings.
- Diana's magnificent Royal Wedding gown (as described above).

Diana, A Celebration is produced by Arts and Exhibitions International, in association with the Althorp Estate.

"The impact of this international exhibition will bring many to Kansas City and Union Station from around the country. We believe the exhibition will generate beneficial tourism revenue both for Union Station and the area," said Michael Haverty, Chairman of the Board of Union Station Kansas City.

Tickets go on sale to the general public on January 29, 2011. They may be purchased through Ticketmaster locations, including the Sprint Center Box Office, as well as the Union Station Box Office. Union Station Members will be able to purchase tickets before January 29, 2011. Details are available at www.UnionStation.org.

Union Station is providing a royal invitation to members, with admission to the exhibit only \$10 for Union Station members. Adult non-member admission is \$23.50. Seniors (62+), Military and Student I.D. admission is \$18. Children (3-12) admission is \$15. Groups of 15 or more adults are \$18 per ticket. School Groups are \$10 per ticket.

About Union Station Kansas City, Inc.

Union Station Kansas City is a historical landmark and civic asset renovated and reopened to the public in 1999. The organization, driven by its mission of science and history education and entertainment, features a science center, the popular Model Railroad Experience (open year-round), a new planetarium, one of the region's largest-screen movie theaters, live theater, shops and restaurants. Union Station is also home to prominent area civic organizations and businesses. Visit unionstation.org for details.

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