

For Immediate Release
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***The Orchid Show at The New York Botanical Garden:
Glorious Orchid Exhibition Returns to Landmark Conservatory
February 27–March 28, 2004***

More than five thousand specimens of orchids—one of the world’s most coveted plants—will fill the galleries of The New York Botanical Garden’s landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory during the upcoming exhibition and sale of fine orchids. From February 27 through March 28, 2004, *The Orchid Show* features orchids in both dramatic displays and naturalistic habitats in the Garden’s crystal palace. The month-long show has the distinction of being the only curated and designed museum-quality orchid exhibition in the northeastern United States.

Designed by Philip Baloun of Philip Baloun Designs, New York City, this year *The Orchid Show* will expand to the tropical galleries of America’s preeminent glasshouse to allow visitors to discover orchids in naturalistic habitats. When visitors enter the Conservatory, an enchanting floral confection will dominate the soaring *Palms of the Americas* gallery. As visitors wend their way through the Conservatory—and around the world—they plunge into an exotic adventure that brings them face to face with the amazing drama of orchids. The *Lowland Tropical Rain Forest* features the orchids of the Americas with a multitude of the plants nestled among the epiphytes and interspersed among tangles of woody vines. Displays explain the natural history and conservation stories of endangered orchids in the rainforests of the world.

A few steps further, orchids emerge from the mists of the *Upland Tropical Rain Forest*. An extraordinary collection of miniature orchids—with tiny jewel-like flowers—will be displayed in a climate-controlled terrarium that replicates their cool highland habitat. After a brief break from the rainforest in the *Deserts of the Americas*, visitors enter the main Exhibition galleries where they encounter a Mayan ruin covered with rare and choice orchids of great beauty and special character. Here, a trove of rare orchids lurks, with specimens clinging to the Mayan architectural relics.

The Garden’s Curator of Glasshouse Collections Darrin Duling and Conservatory Manager Francisca Coelho are the exhibition curators. Orchid Collection Gardener Marc Hachadourian manages cultivation of the orchids. A breathtaking diversity of orchid species and hybrids will be on view throughout the Conservatory including: *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Epidendrum*, *Laelia*, *Miltoniopsis*, *Oncidium*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Phaius*, and *Phragmipedium*.

Just a short walk on the Garden grounds from the Conservatory, additional magnificent miniature orchids adorn the terrarium of the Library’s Orchid Rotunda. Exhibition tours, home gardening demonstrations, Continuing Education classes, and children’s programming round out the month-long celebration.

The Orchid Show is sponsored by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road in the Bronx. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday holidays, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. April through October, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., November through March. For information, call (718) 817-8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org.

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Photos available**