

For Immediate Release

**March Exhibition Features Orchids
in Landmark Victorian Conservatory**

A Celebration of Orchids: An Exhibition and Sale of Fine Orchids
February 28–March 30, 2003

Surrounded by a mystique that few plants can rival, orchids inspire fascination, obsession, and awe. This winter the Garden will present a month-long *Celebration of Orchids: An Exhibition and Sale of Fine Orchids*, its most extensive orchid exhibition since the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory restoration was completed in 1997. Hundreds of plants from the Garden's collection of more than 5,000 specimens will be on display in the landmark Victorian crystal palace, including species from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Americas, along with many beautiful hybrids.

Designed by Philip Baloun, *A Celebration of Orchids* will feature dazzling displays throughout three galleries. In the Palms of the Americas Gallery, various species and horticultural hybrids will be set amid the palms and pool of the Palm Dome to welcome visitors to the exhibition.

In the Seasonal Exhibition galleries, a rainforest setting is the backdrop for tropical orchids in their natural habitat. [Cattleya](#), [Paphiopedilum](#), [Cymbidium](#), [Phalaenopsis](#), [Phaius](#), [Epidendrum](#), [Dendrobium](#), [Phragmipedium](#), and [Laelia](#) orchids will be shown together with their close cousins so visitors can experience nature's palette of orchids in the wild. This exhibit will also explain the extraordinary natural history and conservation stories of rare and endangered orchids in the rainforests of the world.

The show culminates in a mysterious bamboo "ruin" such as might be found in a deep and forgotten corner of the rainforest. Here, a treasure trove of tropical orchids cling to the moist and green-covered corners. This rich setting evokes images of an obsessed orchid collector, who has since disappeared without a trace, leaving only his treasured orchids and a few remnants of his collecting hut as testimony to his brilliant find in an obscure corner of the jungle.

After viewing orchids in these naturalistic settings, visitors can learn about growing orchids in a more domestic setting – at home. Although orchids have traditionally been thought of as delicate hothouse flowers that require specialized conditions to grow and bloom, home gardeners are discovering that caring for orchids is not as forbidding as it is often thought to be. (It's really quite easy!) Displays and public programs will show orchid aficionados how to select and care for a variety of orchids. Easy-to-care-for varieties of orchids will be for sale at the Shop in the Garden.

Curator-led tours, behind-the-scenes science tours, and children's tours will also complement the exhibition.

The exhibition is curated by Darrin Duling, the Garden's Curator of Glasshouse Collections, and Francisca Coelho, Conservatory Manager. Many of the orchids on display were cultured and grown by Marc Hachadourian, NYBG Gardener for the Orchid Collection.

A Celebration of Orchids is sponsored by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation.

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 on Monday holidays, from 10 a.m.–6p.m. April through October, and 10 a.m.–4 p.m. November through March. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *Garden Passport*, a combination ticket that includes grounds admission, the Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Tram Tour, and Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and costs \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for students and seniors, \$4 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free to everyone all day Wednesdays and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For information, call (718) 817-8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org.

Media Contacts: Lisa Stillman or Maria Izquierdo (718) 817-8616