THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE
1999 Award Ceremony Program
October 14, 1999
Des Moines, Iowa
THE 1999 WORLD FOOD PRIZE LAUREATE

The 1999 World Food Prize has been awarded to Dr. Walter Plowright for his development of a vaccine which has made possible the elimination of rinderpest from many regions of the developing world. His research has provided a practical means to remove a menace dating back 16 centuries.

A scientist who has made significant contributions to vaccine developments for a number of animal diseases, Plowright’s discovery of the rinderpest vaccine is considered one of the most important victories in improving the safety and availability of food throughout the world. Rinderpest, commonly known as cattle plague was, until Plowright’s discovery, one of the deadliest animal diseases in recorded history, causing losses of untold millions of cattle, widespread famine, staggering economic losses, social unrest, and even war. Based in Kenya, Plowright dedicated more than 20 years of research and development to introduce a safe and effective rinderpest vaccine.

The human impact and financial benefits of rinderpest control can be seen in numerous agricultural sectors. Reduced mortality in cattle has resulted in additional milk, meat and hide production and an expanded agricultural output in the developing world. Development of the rinderpest vaccine has also contributed to the preservation of both food and income resources for hundreds of thousands of small farms throughout the world, the absence of disease-ridden, perishing cattle, and reduced socio-political upheaval and war caused by scarce or perishing food sources.

While rinderpest may be close to eradication, many other diseases continue to threaten the world’s livestock. Fortunately, through Dr. Plowright’s work, and the awareness generated by The World Food Prize, there will be scores of other researchers eager to follow his good work and take on the challenge.

DAVIS GAINES

Davis Gaines performed the title role in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s The Phantom of the Opera more than 2,000 times during his five year run in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. He received the Bay Area Critic’s Award for Best Actor, and remains the longest-running Phantom of Los Angeles and Broadway. Mr. Gaines has sung with virtually every major symphony orchestra in North America, including appearances with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. In addition to his critically-acclaimed debut solo CD, Against the Tide, his voice can be heard on 19 cast recordings and compilation albums. For more information, please visit his website at www.daviscaines.com.

DAVID LAI

David Lai is currently serving as a music director and conductor for the Broadway company of The Phantom of the Opera. He is also the associate music supervisor for the U.S. touring productions of Phantom and has also conducted the San Francisco production at the Curran Theater. Prior to Phantom, David conducted Miss Saigon on Broadway for two years. Other recent conducting engagements include concerts with the Kennedy Center Opera Orchestra for the Kennedy Center Awards, the Palace Theater with members of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra and Broadway on Broadway.

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

Thirteenth Annual Award Ceremony
Thursday, October 14, 1999
4:00 p.m.
Hoyt Sherman Place
Des Moines, Iowa

Music
Davis Gaines

Master of Ceremonies
Robert D. Havener
The World Food Prize, Council of Advisors

Film
"By Their Fruits, The World Shall Know Them"

Remarks
Norman Borlaug
Elizabeth Dole

Music
Davis Gaines

Presentation of the 1999 World Food Prize
John Ruan, John Ruan III
Norman Borlaug, Elizabeth Dole

Response by the 1999 World Food Prize Laureate
Dr. Walter Plowright

Remarks
Robert Culpshaw
Her Majesty’s Consul General

Music
Davis Gaines

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

The World Food Prize is the foremost international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world. The World Food Prize is sponsored by The World Food Prize Foundation, established by John Ruan, and is located in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

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