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FRÄULEIN MARIA
DOUG ELKINS & FRIENDS' UPROARIOUS SPOOF ON *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*
PREMIERES NOVEMBER 12-14, 2009

Philadelphia, PA – Doug Elkins & Friends' *Fräulein Maria*, a belly-laughing gender-bending full-length sendup of *The Sound of Music*, makes its Philadelphia premiere November 12-14 on the Dance Celebration Series, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Conceived and choreographed by Doug Elkins, two-time Bessie award-winning choreographer and BBoy maven, *Fräulein Maria* was inspired by the 1965 popular movie *The Sound of Music* starring Julie Andrews. Set to film's score by Richard Rodgers with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, Elkins' version features 13 talented dancers in 11 vignettes, and is co-directed by Barbara Karger and Michael Preston. The New York Times exclaims, "Mr. Elkins's ceaselessly brilliant and often hilarious take on *The Sound of Music* is a fount of unending movement ideas and about as much visceral pleasure as it's possible to have in the theater."

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, **Dance Celebration presented by Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents**, maintains the tradition of bringing to Philadelphia the world's best contemporary touring dance companies. This season's **The Magic of Movement** pays tribute to American dance and showcases its diversity of styles: tap, Broadway, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, multimedia and dance theater. Mr. Swartz notes (about *Fräulein Maria*) "We are thrilled to present to Philadelphia audiences one of the New York Times' ten best productions in 2008."

Performances will take place on Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 pm; Friday, November 13 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, November 14 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Ticket prices are \$48, \$42, \$38, \$28 (evening) and \$42, \$36, \$32, \$24 (matinee). Tickets may be purchased by calling the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900 or by visiting www.AnnenbergCenter.org

Set to the entire soundtrack (but in a different order), *Fräulein Maria* showcases three Marias, cross-dressing nuns and an inventive, unforgettable hip-hop solo performed by Elkins dressed in a hoodie and basketball shorts to “Climb Every Mountain.” A seductive duet, “Sixteen Going on Seventeen,” features a man in drag in a chair being enticed by a voguing paramour. Ensemble sections such as “Do-Re-Mi” and “The Lonely Goatherd” feature Elkins’ irrepressible style, a unique mix of club, hip-hop, dance theater, and contemporary vocabularies, as well as his tongue-in-cheek references to acclaimed dance makers Paul Taylor, José Limon and George Balanchine. Dance Magazine sums it up: “Many vignettes had the audience chuckling, laughing and guffawing.” This zany production promises surprises with performers entering from off-stage and an audience sing-along.

The talented cast of downtown New York performers includes Devin Buchanan, Cindy Chung Camins, Carolyn Cryer, Doug Elkins, Gui Greene, Krista Jansen, Deborah Lohse, Scott Lowe (who also performs with Philadelphia’s Miro Dance Theatre), Meghan Merrill, Lisa Niedermeyer, Donnell Turner Oakley and Michael Preston.

In 1988, **Doug Elkins Dance Company** was founded by Elkins with Lisa Nicks and Jane Weiner and performed nationally and internationally for 15 years. Elkins is a recipient of choreographic commissions and awards from the NEA, National Performance Network, Jerome Foundation, Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation, Dance Magazine Foundation, Metropolitan Life/American Dance Festival, Hartford Foundation, Arts International, The Greenwall Foundation and The Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts. In 1994, he received a Brandeis University Creative Arts Medal. In 2006, Elkins was honored in New York City with the Martha Hill Award for Career Achievement. He has taught and choreographed in the US and Europe and has created original works for Batsheva Dance Company, Flying Karamazov Brothers, MaggioDanza, Pennsylvania Ballet, Union Dance and CanDoCo. His theater work includes collaborations with Joanne Akalaitis and Philip Glass, Robert Woodruff, Pavel Dubrusky, Annie Hamburger, Molly Smith, Craig Lucas, David Henry Hwang, Michael Preston and Barbara Karger.

In addition to performances, Doug Elkins & Friends will offer outreach activities including a master class as part of *The Artist to Artist Series* and a special school performances for *The Student Discovery Series*. For more information call 215-636-9000 ext.110 or visit www.danceaffiliates.org.

This tour of Doug Elkins & Friends is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program.

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