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“THE MAGIC OF MOVEMENT”
DANCE CELEBRATION’S 28TH SEASON
FEATURES SEVEN COMPANIES
INCLUDING *THANK YOU GREGORY* STARRING MAURICE HINES

Philadelphia, PA - Dance Celebration’s 28th Season, “The Magic of Movement,” features seven companies in 31 performances at Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap, opens the season with seven performances starring Maurice Hines, with Jason Samuels Smith, a stellar cast of hoofers and a live band. Hip hop post-modern maven Doug Elkins & Friends brings *Fräulein Maria*, a hilarious spoof on Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical, *The Sound of Music*. MOMIX returns with Moses Pendleton’s latest visual tour-de-force, *Botanica*. Elizabeth Streb, known as the Evil Knievel of Dance, debuts *Brave*, featuring dancers flying and falling off moving sets. Rasta Thomas’ Bad Boys of Dance make its Philadelphia debut showcasing some of the best male dancers in the world. The whimsical and witty, BodyVox premieres *Water Bodies*, a full-length multimedia work, and the sassy and versatile River North Chicago Dance Company offers Broadway and jazz dance celebrating its 20th Anniversary.

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 pays tribute to American dance, showcasing the diversity of styles - - tap, Broadway, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, multimedia and dance theater.

Produced by Dance Affiliates, written and conceived by Tony Waag and directed by Ann Marie De Angelo, ***Thank You Gregory (October 6-10, 2009)*** salutes American tap legends – Fred Astaire, Ginger Rodgers, Honi Coles, the Hines and Nicholas Brothers, Gene Kelly, Bojangles Robinson, the Copasetics and Jimmy Slyde. This all new production is based on the 2005 show which premiered at Annenberg Center. ***BodyVox (October 22-24, 2009)*** directed by MOMIX and Pilobolus alums Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland, brings its multimedia production *Water Bodies*. This full-length visually stunning work features 10 original dances and two films by award-winning filmmaker Mitchell Rose.

Performed by an all-star cast of downtown New York dancers, the “demented” and brilliant **Doug Elkins & Friends (November 12-14, 2009)** unleashes the gender-bending and belly-laughing inducing parody on the 1965 film classic, *The Sound of Music*. Elkins’s *Fräulein Maria* features three Marias, cross-dressing nuns, and an unforgettable hip hop solo by Elkins to “Climb Every Mountain.”

Known for their “give-all’ dancing and “everything for everyone “ program (Chicago Tribune) **River North Chicago Dance Company (January 14-16, 2010)** premieres works by artistic director Frank Chaves and choreographers Robert Battles and Lauri Stallings. Highlights include Chaves’ *Habaneras, the Music of Cuba* set to the country’s greatest composer, Ernesto Lecuona. **STREB’s** pop-action choreography blends slam dancing, sports, the circus arts and Hollywood stunts into a heart-pounding, nail-biting experience. *Brave (February 4-6, 2010)*, STREB’s latest experiment, has her powerful dancer-athletes constantly moving on a moving circular set fearlessly flinging themselves into unoccupied spaces.

The **Bad Boys of Dance (April 15-17, 2010)**, under the direction of dance prodigy and ballet gold medalist Rasta Thomas, makes its Philadelphia debut. The troupe features the most versatile and virtuoso male dancers in the world performing an awe-inspiring program of contemporary, capoeira, hip-hop and jazz. Boston Globe exclaims, “The crowd couldn’t get enough of them.” **MOMIX (May 20-22, 2010)** closes the season with Moses Pendleton’s newest creation, the mythical and magical *Botanica*, performed by an extraordinary troupe of dancer-illusionists. *Botanica* is a spectacular celebration of nature and beauty, featuring colorful props and costumes by Michael Curry of *Lion King* fame.

All performances will take place in the Zellerbach Theatre, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA, 19104. New this season is pre-paid discount parking for regular subscribers. For ticket information, contact the Box Office, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 215-898-3900 or www.AnnenbergCenter.org. Subscriptions are available on line. Single Tickets are \$48-\$32, and for *Thank You Gregory* which cost \$58-\$42 and will go on sale August 31.

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 2009-2010 season offers outreach activities by all the touring companies for the local community. These programs include master classes, workshops, residencies and special projects as part of *The Artist to Artist Series* and full production performances in *The Student Discovery Series*. For more information call 215-636-9000 ext.110 or visit www.danceaffiliates.org .

Significant funding for the 2009-10 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by Business Friends of Dance (Affiliates), The Connelly Foundation, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Presenters, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

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