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October 14, 2008

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**MONTREAL'S SENSATIONAL RUBBERBANDANCE GROUP
RETURNS TO THE DANCE CELEBRATION SERIES
WITH THE PHILLY PREMIERE OF *PUNTO CIEGO* NOVEMBER 6-8**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Lauded as “the new breakout Canadian sweetheart on the international scene,” (Globe and Mail) Rubberbandance Group (RBDG) returns to the Dance Celebration Series with the Philadelphia premiere of *Punto Ciego*, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA, November 6-8.

RBDG fuses the explosive movement vocabularies of breakdance and hip hop with the unconventional theatrics of contemporary dance, creating a daring new aesthetic. Founded and directed by Victor Quijada, who danced with Twyla Tharp, Rudy Perez, Eliot Feld and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, RBDG consist of six world-class dancers with a fresh perspective on performance. Quijada's 2008 creation *Punto Ciego*, (Spanish for blind spot), is a 115-minute dancetheater tour-de-force built on highly-charged situations revolving around relationships. Quijada exclaims, “I'm trying to open things up - to break us out of the boxes that we are in. I am trying to create (choreographic) harmony with all the different dance experiences I have had – to be whole, not fragmented.”

Performances will take place on Thursday, November 6 at 7:30pm; Friday, November 7 at 8 pm; and Saturday, November 8 at 2 pm and 8 pm. Ticket prices are \$48, \$42 and \$38 (evening); and \$42, \$36, \$32 (matinee). Tickets may be purchased by calling the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900, or by visiting www.pennpresents.org. **Dance Celebration is presented by Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents. Its 27th season under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz salutes *The Dancemaker*.**

Originally titled *Phase 11*, *Punto Ciego* is a three section tragic-comic work performed by

Louise-Michel Jackson, Mariusz Ostrowski, Lila Mae G. Talbot, Frederic Tavernini and RBDG's co-artistic directors Anne Plamondon and Quijada. It features collaborators: Rene-Pierre Belanger's eye-catching video design; Jasper Gahunia's music/DJ; and Stephane Longpre's striking set design. Six unique personalities examine, defend and possibly accept varying perspectives on a collective reality. A/V feeds, street demeanor, reality TV, coy challenges and the audience's own subjective validation are incorporated to give the work a double-edge.

RBDG made its Dance Celebration debut during the 05-06 season with its full-evening acclaimed production *Elastic Perspective*. The troupe made its official debut in May 2002 at Espace Tangent, Montréal, Canada, where it won the "Printemps de la Dance" award and returned in the Fall with *Hasta*. RBDG performed at the New York City Central Park Summerstage '02 and '03, and at the Hip-Hop Theater Festivals in New York, Washington, DC and San Francisco, CA. Highlights also include the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Becket, MA and Bumbershoot Music and Arts Festival, Seattle, WA. The company's international engagements include: EXPO 2005 Aichi, Japan; Act '04 Festival Rotterdamse Schoouwberg, Holland; Breakin' Convention 2004, Sadler's Wells, London and the 2004 URB Festivaali at Kiasm, Helsinki, Finland. Co-directors Victor Quijada and Anne Plamondon have been selected to be the artists-in-residence at the prestigious La Place des Arts, Cinquieme Salle in Montréal from 2007-2011.

Founder Quijada began breakdancing at age eight and was formally introduced to dance at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He was a protégé of Judson Dance experimentalist Rudy Perez. In 2003, Quijada received the Bonnie Bird Choreography Award and the Peter Darrell Choreography Award (UK). He has created works for Peter Boal & Company (NYC), Transitions Dance Company (London) and "Self Observation Without Judgement" for the Scottish Dance Theater which won the 2004 National Dance Award for Best Modern Repertory. His work was also featured in the K-OS music video "Man I Used To Be," which won the 2005 Much Music Video Award for Best Rap Video.

In addition to the performances, the company will conduct a free master class, Wednesday, November 5 at 1pm and Student Discovery Series Performance for Schools Friday, November 7 at 10:30am. For Dance Celebration Outreach information, contact Dance Affiliates 215-636-9000 ext.110 or visit www.danceaffiliates.org

Significant funding for the 2008-2009 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, National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Presenters, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

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