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**MAURICE HINES STARS IN  
*THANK YOU GREGORY, A TRIBUTE TO THE LEGENDS OF TAP*  
SEVEN PERFORMANCES ONLY  
OCTOBER 6-10, 2009**

Philadelphia, PA – Broadway star and brother/partner of the legendary Gregory Hines, Maurice Hines guest stars in *Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap* October 6-10, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, launching Dance Celebration's 28<sup>th</sup> season, *The Magic of Movement*.

*Thank You Gregory* (TYG) features an all-star cast of eight hoofers led by Emmy Award winner and tap phenomenon Jason Samuels Smith, a live band, and multimedia projections. This new show, produced by Dance Affiliates' Randy Swartz, directed by Ann Marie De Angelo (former principal dancer and associate artistic director of Joffrey Ballet), and written by Tony Waag (artistic director of the American Tap Foundation) pays homage to tap's leading ambassador Gregory Hines, and the great legends who preceded him.

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. Mr. Swartz notes about *TYG*, "this production celebrates our history, diversity, creativity, our energy and optimism. It is a dance party and everyone is invited to bring their tap shoes."

Performances will take place on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:30 pm; Wednesday, October 7 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; Thursday, October 8 at 7:30 pm; Friday, October 9 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, October 10 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Ticket prices are \$58, \$52, \$48, \$38 (evening) and \$52, \$46, \$42, \$34 (matinee).

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900 or by visiting [www.AnnenbergCenter.org](http://www.AnnenbergCenter.org)

Inspired by the success of Dance Affiliates' 2005 production, The Philadelphia Inquirer notes "*Thank You Gregory* is not only entertaining, it's a lesson in dance history... a great opportunity to see some of tap's finest." The show salutes tap titans Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, John Bubbles, the Nicholas Brothers, Honi Coles, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Roy Bolger, Donald O'Connor, Dr. Jimmy Slyde and the Copasetics, as well as tap's leading ladies, and especially Gregory Hines, who redefined the art form and influenced a new generation of tappers. The program reflects the scope and breadth of tap's genres and timelines including vaudeville, Harlem and the Club circuit, Hollywood and Broadway, as well as tap's recent renaissance on concert stages and in electronic media. Sections of live and filmed dances showcase the elegant highly-choreographed smooth style of Astaire, Coles and Slyde, the athleticism of the Nicholas Brothers, the eccentric creations of O'Connor and Bolger and the pervasive percussive rhythms of Bojangles, Bubbles, Brown, Hines and today's preeminent tappers. Ensemble sections include the classic tap favorites Shim Sham Shimmy and the Stroll. The live band features Bernice Brooks (drummer), Joe Fonda (bass) and Theo Hill (piano).

Tony and Emmy award-winner Gregory Hines referred to Jason Samuels Smith as "possibly the next greatest." New York Times calls Smith "smashingly inventive." Smith (featured performer for TYG) leads a stellar cast consisting of Chloe Arnold (a protégé of Debbie Allen), Michelle Dorrance (cast of off-Broadway's *STOMP*), Kendrick Jones (soloist for Tap City), Dormeisha Sumbry-Edwards (captain/principal dancer for Broadway's *Bring in Da'Noise, Bring in Da'Funk*), Brent McBeth (of *Fosse* fame), Heather Holohan (a protégé of Brenda Bufalino) and Melinda Sullivan (original cast member of Disney's *High School Musical*). (See attached bio sheet.) Gregory Hines has said, "I love tap dancing. I get so inspired, so filled up." Tony Waag exclaims, "In Gregory's honor and in his spirit, this production pays tribute to America's leading tap legends."

In addition to performances, TYG hoofers will offer outreach activities including two master classes as part of *The Artist to Artist Series* and two special school performances for *The Student Discovery Series*. For more information call 215-636-9000 ext.110 or visit [www.danceaffiliates.org](http://www.danceaffiliates.org).

This production of *Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap* and its Philadelphia premiere were made possible with major support from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

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