



DANCE CELEBRATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DANCE CELEBRATION PRESENTS THE PHILADELPHIA DEBUT OF  
RASTA THOMAS' AWARD-WINNING, ALL-MALE VIRTUOSO TROUPE  
*BAD BOYS OF DANCE*  
APRIL 15-17, 2010**

Philadelphia, PA – Back from a three-month European tour, the all-male virtuoso troupe, **Rasta Thomas' Bad Boys of Dance (RT/BBD)** makes its Philadelphia debut April 15-17, 2010 as part of the **Dance Celebration Series** at the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA.**

With Rasta Thomas, International Ballet Gold Medalist and star of Twyla Tharp's hit musical *Movin' Out*, at the helm, **RT/BBD** consists of a stellar cast, including a finalist on *So You Think You Can Dance*; an *American Dance Idol* winner, Broadway stars and winners of numerous dance competitions. **RT/BBD** aims to push the boundaries of male dancing, helping to make dance accessible to wider audiences. The program features the choreography of Rasta Thomas and Adrienne Canterna-Thomas (associate artistic director) set to the music of such icons as Michael Jackson, Prince, Queen, U2 and Coldplay. The movement style is a mix of ballet, contemporary, Broadway pizzazz, hip-hop, capoeira, acrobatics, and tap (choreographed by dancer Michael Keefe). Noted the *Boston Globe*, "This was absolutely fabulous dancing."

The program is divided into two parts, "Beautiful Day" and "Rock You" and features Robbie Nicholson, Michael Keefe, Anthony Colantone, Chris McCarthy, Kevin Mylrea and Rasta Thomas. Adrienne Canterna-Thomas appears as a guest artist courtesy of Pretty Girls of Dance. The movement vocabulary juxtaposes sensational multiple pirouettes and fouettes with armless flips, straddle leaps, grande jetees, 180 degree extensions, timesteps, freezes, flares, one-handed balances and dramatic posturing.

Dances named after songs like Michael Jackson's "Billy Jean," "Bad," and "Smooth Criminal;" Queen's "We Will Rock You" and "Another One Bites the Dust;" Prince's "When Doves Cry" and "Baby I'm a Star;" and Dave Matthews Band's "Crash" explore relationships, coming of age transitions and pop culture. Dancing to U2's "With or Without You" Thomas and his wife depict the raw emotions at the bitter end of a troubled relationship.

Called "a dancer of enormous talent and undeniable charisma," by the *New York Times*, Thomas made dance competition history as a teenager, with honors including the Special Jury Prize from the 1994 Paris International Dance Competition, the Gold Medal in the Junior Men's Division from the 1996 Varna International Ballet Competition, and the Gold Medal in the Senior Men's Division from the Jackson, Mississippi International Ballet Competition. His guest credits include American Ballet Theatre, Victor Ullate Ballet of Spain, National Ballet of China, Joffrey Ballet, Lines Contemporary Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and Pacific Northwest Ballet.

(more)

**2-2-2-2 RASTA THOMAS AND BAD BOYS OF DANCE AT ANNENBERG APRIL 15 - 17**

In 2001, Thomas was the first American to become a member of the renowned Kirov Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia. He has been in several TV documentaries, performed at the Academy Awards, was a featured dancer in an international ad campaign for GAP, appeared in Patrick Swayze's *One Last Dance* and starred on Broadway in Twyla Tharp's hit musical, *Movin' Out*.

Adrienne Canterna-Thomas is the recipient of numerous national and international awards including the 1998 Women's Junior Gold Medal at the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. She was also Teen Miss Dance of America, and won the Grishko Award of Excellence in Ballet.

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, the **Dance Celebration series, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center's 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, from tap to Broadway, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, multimedia, and dance theater.

Performances will take place on Thursday, April 15 at 7:30 pm; Friday, April 16 at 8:00 pm; and Saturday, April 17 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Ticket prices are \$28 - \$48 (evening) and \$24 - \$42 (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)

In addition to performances, **RT/BBD** will offer outreach activities including two master classes as part of the *Artist to Artist Series* and a special school performance as part of the Annenberg Center's *Student Discovery Series*. For more information about the *Artist to Artist Series* call 215-636-9000 ext. 110 or visit [www.danceaffiliates.org](http://www.danceaffiliates.org). For more information about the *Student Discovery Series*, call 215-898-6789 or visit [www.AnnenbergCenter.org/studentdiscovery](http://www.AnnenbergCenter.org/studentdiscovery)

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For more information on **RT/BBD** and Dance Celebration's 28<sup>th</sup> season or for press tickets and/or interview requests, please call Nina Zucker Associates at 610.667.0706 or email [nzapr@aol.com](mailto:nzapr@aol.com). For more information on the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** and Penn Presents, please contact Lauren Saul at 215.573.8537 or [lasaul@ac.upenn.edu](mailto:lasaul@ac.upenn.edu) or visit [www.AnnenbergCenter.org](http://www.AnnenbergCenter.org).

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