



Media Contact:

Lauren Saul

Marketing & Communications Manager

215.573.8537 | lasaul@ac.upenn.edu

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2009

Philadelphia talent showcased during the 09/10 By Local Series at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

**Fall performances include the West Philadelphia Orchestra and works by
two noted Philadelphia choreographers, Silvana Cardell and Curt Haworth**

(Philadelphia, September 21, 2009) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues its dedication to local Philadelphia artists during the 09/10 By Local Series. Funded in part through the Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment from the Arts, and curated by the Annenberg Center's Director of Operations Madison Cario, the series showcases both emerging and established Philadelphia talent. The 09/10 By Local season features an eclectic mix of dance, world music, theatre and multimedia performances. First up – **The West Philadelphia Orchestra** performs the music of Eastern Europe on **Saturday, October 3 at 7:30 PM** in the Annenberg's Harold Prince Theatre. Philadelphia choreographers **Silvana Cardell and Curt Haworth** present two works, Cardell's *Vertex*, a multi-layered exploration of space through live video performance and movement, and Haworth's *The Compromise*, inspired by the Susan Minot novel *Evening* on **Friday, October 16 at 7:30 PM** in the Harold Prince Theatre. Tickets for each performance are \$25. For tickets or for more information, please visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org or call 215.898.3900. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.

"The 2009 By Local Series at the Annenberg Center presents a sampling of the high quality, entertaining and stimulating work of Philadelphia-based artists. This season features cutting-edge post-modern dance, world music, multimedia, theatre and of course those events that defy definition," said Cario."

WEST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

From a weekly jam session among seven friends in fall of 2006 to sizzling dance parties, debaucherous rock concerts and international music festivals in 2009, West Philadelphia Orchestra (WPO), is a band, a celebration, and a movement, with a big, loud voice and a well-spring of good news. With musical roots in Eastern Europe, WPO blends jazz, dancehall and the avant garde to create a home-grown, ecstatic and powerful sound. Today, there are as many as 14 musicians

currently playing with the ensemble, including trumpets, tenor horns, sousaphone, sax, clarinet, violins, viola, drums, and three singers but not once has the band been exactly the same combination of players on any two concerts.

WPO performs most regularly at parties, concerts, and community events around Philadelphia, including monthly performances at Tritone Bar. The band has performed at Mexico City's Ollin Kan

Festival, Ann Arbor's Top of the Park, Michigan's Nor-East'r Music and Arts Festival, New York's Golden Festival, Maine's Sacred and Profane Festival, Bethlehem's Musikfest and the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

They have played in many Philadelphia venues, including the Kimmel Center and the Electric Factory, where they were the opening act for Gogol Bordello. They have also collaborated with several groups, including Camerata Chamber Orchestra, Dr. Dog and Gemini Wolf. WPO has also lent their joyous sound to weddings, celebrations and events of all kinds. The group released their debut record, *WPO*, in 2008.

SILVANA CARDELL, *VERTEX*

Silvana Cardell is an Argentinean choreographer and dancer who has lived and worked in Philadelphia since 2002. She currently serves as director of the Cardell Dance Theater and the Choreography Research Center at Mt. Vernon Dance Space in Philadelphia and regularly collaborates and performs with Group Motion Dance Company. Cardell has also served as a faculty member at the School of Dance at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Vertex is a performance centered on dance, storytelling, visual image and music. Exploring the confluence of a moment of peak experience, the work examines the real people behind the term "collateral damage."

CURT HAWORTH, *THE COMPROMISE*

Curt Haworth is an expatriate Californian who lived in New York City from 1988 to 2008 until his move this year to Philadelphia. Haworth has taught regularly at Movement Research and DNA in New York City. He is currently on faculty at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

The Compromise is a non-linear work that uses Susan Minot's ***Evening*** as a springboard to explore relationships over time. The work is not at all a literal mirroring of the text, but a cinematic approach to human psychology as it comes to terms with lifelong decisions.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for Theatre, Dance, Jazz, World Music, New Music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world renowned and cutting edge artists and companies who express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experience.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 25-year-old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from the Wallace Foundation, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken of which Ms. Worth won a Tony® for her performance when the show moved to Broadway. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince and Joseph Papp staged many of their plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway. As part of the Dance Celebration series, a broad range of world-class and emerging dancers and companies have appeared at the Annenberg Center each season including the Pilobolus Dance Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, MOMIX, Parsons Dance Company, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and Alvin Ailey.

WEST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA**Saturday, October 3 at 7:30 PM**

Harold Prince Theatre at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

An eclectic ensemble made up of Philly's finest and wildest musicians performing trumpets, violins, clarinet, drums, banjo and sousaphone, the West Philadelphia Orchestra will get you moving with the poignant melodies and the frenetic, propulsive rhythms of Eastern Europe. Enjoy a unique mix of Balkan and klezmer sounds, the powerful rhythms of samba and dancehall, the growling energy of punk rock, the spontaneity of jazz, and, of course, the soul and grit of Philadelphia.

Tickets: \$25. For more information please call 215.898.3900 or visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org

The Annenberg Center's By Local Series is funded in part by The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Silvana Cardell & Curt Haworth
VERTEX & THE COMPROMISE**Friday, October 16 at 7:30 PM**

Harold Prince Theatre at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Don't miss two of Philadelphia's most adventurous choreographers. Argentinian choreographer and dancer Silvana Cardell presents *Vertex* – a multi-layered exploration of space through live video performance and movement. Based on Susan Minot's *Evening*, Curt Haworth's *The Compromise* explores relationships over time and is a cinematic approach to human psychology as it comes to terms with lifelong decisions.

Tickets: \$25. For more information please call 215.898.3900 or visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org

The Annenberg Center's By Local Series is funded in part by The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

Lauren Saul, Marketing and Communications Manager
phone: 215.573.8537; email: lasaul@ac.upenn.edu

###