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CONTACT: Nina Zucker Associates  
610.667.0706- [nzapr@aol.com](mailto:nzapr@aol.com) or  
Nicole Allen Cook / Annenberg Center  
215.898.6706 - [cookn@ac.upenn.edu](mailto:cookn@ac.upenn.edu)

**THE ANNENBERG CENTER'S *PENN PRESENTS* ANNOUNCES  
2009-2010 PERFORMANCE SEASON,  
FEATURING A WEALTH OF MUSIC, DANCE AND THEATRE  
PRODUCTIONS THAT SPAN THE ARTISTIC SPECTRUM**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA – May 10** – With a schedule that spans the artistic spectrum from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre of London to Maurice Hines, the Soweto Gospel Choir to Rick Miller's *MacHomer*, Natalie McMaster to Dee Dee Bridgewater, as well as a host of the area's most talented up-and-coming performers, the Annenberg Center's **PENN PRESENTS** 2009-2010 season truly has something for everyone. Featuring appearances and productions showcasing both new and returning favorites, as well as a stand-out roster of Dance Celebration performances co-presented by Dance Affiliates, the Annenberg Center's 38<sup>th</sup> performance season offers an array of choices that touch virtually every genre and can't be found anywhere else in the region.

In consideration of the economic environment, the Center also announces that ticket prices will remain steady for the upcoming season, with **no increase for subscriptions**, and subscribers can now take advantage of **free exchanges on all subscription tickets -- a new benefit**. Subscribers also receive a savings of up to 34% off regular single ticket prices, free ticket replacement, priority seating, discount parking and special subscriber-only discounts at area restaurants and shops. Subscribers may also now purchase discounted individual tickets to any of the season subscription shows with their series purchase, long before those tickets go on sale to the general public.

Highlights of the season are below, followed by a complete schedule. Unless otherwise noted, all performances will take place at the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts' Zellerbach Theatre, 3680 Walnut Street on the University of Pennsylvania campus**. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call **215.898.3900** or visit **[www.annenbergcenter.org](http://www.annenbergcenter.org)**. **Subscription packages are on sale now.**

Within the **THEATRE Series**, lovers of Shakespeare won't want to miss the extraordinary Philadelphia debut of the **Globe Theatre of London's production of *Love's Labour's Lost*** (Oct 27 – 31), or, for *The Simpsons*-obsessed, **Rick Miller's one-man Shakespearean sendup of *MacBeth*, *MacHomer*** (Oct 14 – 17), and next Spring, **The Acting Company and the Guthrie Theater's *Romeo & Juliet*** (Apr 21–24) takes center stage. Jazz aficionados can look forward to legends **Herb Alpert and Lani Hall** (Nov 4), as well as the powerful voices of **Dee Dee Bridgewater** (Feb 11) and **Jane Monheit** (Sept 19) – all part of this season's **JAZZ Series**. The soul-thrilling sounds of Africa will echo across the miles when **Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir** take the stage (April 30) followed by the mid-season appearance of the **Soweto Gospel Choir** (Jan 30), and Malian guitarist and griot (traditional troubadour and poet), **Habib Koité** (Mar 14), within the **AFRICAN ROOTS Series**. **IRISH ROOTS** take hold with the American-Celtic sensation **Cherish the Ladies** (Nov 15), the international virtuoso of Canadian/Scottish Cape Breton fiddling, **Natalie MacMaster** (Mar 17), and the traditions of bluegrass, mountain gospel and flatfoot dance with **From the Crooked Road: Mountain Music of Virginia** (April 22).

Planning on staying close to home for the holidays next year? No worries. *Penn Presents* helps ring in the season with the joyful melodies of family favorites from one of today's leading Irish performing groups, **Taéda's *Irish Christmas in America*** (Dec 11) part of the **IRISH ROOTS Series**, and the **Preservation Hall Jazz Band: *A Creole Christmas*** (Dec 12), part of the **JAZZ Series**. See full schedule below.

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## 2-2-2-2 Annenberg Center Announces 2009-2010 Performance Season

As diverse as the **PENN PRESENTS** mainstage series is, so is the **2009-2010 By Local Series** – an effort to support and showcase local artists. Funded by The Wallace Foundation, **By Local** offers a spectacular opportunity to see some of the region's best home-based artistic talent up close.

This year's highlights include an evening of world music by the **West Philadelphia Orchestra** (Oct 3); an evening of dance/multimedia featuring **Silvana Cardell's *The Vertex*** and **Curt Haworth's *The Compromise*** (Oct 16); **Pieris Music's** latest New Music production, ***The Fountain*** (Dec 10); **BRAT Productions' *The 24-Hour Bald Soprano*** (Jan 22-23); **Winged Woman Dance** (modern dance troupe featuring Penn Dance students) production of ***Residue*** (Feb 6); and **Kate Watson-Wallace/ anonymous bodies: the mentalist**, a Dance-Theater-Video-Installation (Feb 14). Unless otherwise noted, all **By Local performances will be held in the Prince Theatre.**

Moving from music and theatre to dance, the 28<sup>th</sup> season of Dance Celebration, the area's foremost presenter of renowned international dance companies and artists, features seven companies in 31 performances. Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and **PENN PRESENTS**, brings to Philadelphia the most sought-after contemporary touring dance companies. This season, titled "The Magic of Movement," pays tribute to American dance, showcasing the diversity of styles - tap, Broadway, jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, multi-media and dance theater.

***Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap***, opens the season, 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***, an 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** makes 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 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Produced by Dance Affiliates, written and conceived by Tony Waag and directed by Ann Marie De Angelo, ***Thank You Gregory*** (Oct 6-10) salutes American tap legends Fred Astaire, Ginger Rodgers, Honi Coles, the Hines and Nicholas Brothers, Gene Kelly, Bojangles Robinson, the Copacetics and Jimmy Slyde. This all new production is based on the 2005 show which premiered at the Annenberg Center.

**BodyVox** (Oct 22-24), directed by MOMIX and Pilobolus alums Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland, brings its multi-media production ***Water Bodies***. This full-length visually stunning work features 12 original dances and two films by award winning filmmaker Mitchell Rose.

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

Heralded by the **Chicago Tribune** for their "give-all" dancing and "everything for everyone" program, **River North Chicago Dance Company** (Jan 14-16) premieres works by artistic director Frank Chaves and choreographers Robert Battle and Lauri Stallings. Highlights include Chaves' ***Habaneras, the Music of Cuba*** set to music by the country's greatest composers, including Ernesto Lecuona. **Elizabeth STREB's** pop-action choreography blends slam dancing, sports, the circus arts, and Hollywood stunts into a heart-pounding, nail-biting experience. ***Brave*** (Feb 4-6), STREB's latest experiment, has her powerful dancer-athletes in constant motion on a moving circular set, fearlessly flinging themselves into unoccupied spaces.

The **Bad Boys of Dance** (Apr 15-17), under the direction of dance prodigy and ballet gold medalist Rasta

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### 3-3-3 Annenberg Center Announces 2009-2010 Performance Season

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) 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.

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](http://www.danceaffiliates.org).

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts at Penn is a center for cultural and intellectual engagement in the Philadelphia region. They present and host a diverse program of music, theatre, dance, education and outreach for adult, student and children's audiences. Dance Celebration is presented by Dance Affiliates and **PENN PRESENTS**. Subscriptions to The Annenberg Center's **PENN PRESENTS and DANCE CELEBRATION** 2009-2010 season are now on sale. Prices range from \$51 to \$266, with a choice of 3 to 7 show packages.

For more information about **PENN PRESENTS** and the Annenberg Center, or to purchase subscriptions for the upcoming season, please visit [www.annenbergcenter.org](http://www.annenbergcenter.org) or call the Box Office at 215-898-3900. For press information or to arrange an interview, please contact Nina Zucker Associates at 610.667.0706 or [nzapr@aol.com](mailto:nzapr@aol.com). Full performance schedule follows.

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**ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS' PENN PRESENTS 2009-2010 SEASON**

**AFRICAN ROOTS**

Saturday, January 30 @ 8:00 pm	Soweto Gospel Choir
Sunday, March 14 @ 7:00 pm	Habib Koité
Friday, April 30 @ 8:00 pm	Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir

**IRISH ROOTS**

Sunday, November 15 @ 7:00 pm	Cherish The Ladies
Friday, December 11 @ 8:00 pm	Irish Christmas in America
Wednesday, March 17 @ 7:30 pm	Natalie McMaster
Thursday, April 22 @ 7:30 pm	From the Crooked Road: Mountain Music of Virginia ( <b>Prince</b> )

**JAZZ**

Saturday, September 19 @ 8:00 pm	Jane Monheit
Wednesday, November 4 @ 7:30 pm	Herb Alpert & Lani Hall
Saturday, December 12, 2009 @ 8:00 pm	Preservation Hall Jazz Band: A Creole Christmas
Thursday, February 11, 2010 @ 7:30 pm	Dee Dee Bridgewater

**THEATRE**

October 14 – 17

**Rick Miller: MacHomer**

Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, October 16 at 8:00 pm  
Saturday, October 17 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Oct. 27 – Oct. 31

**Globe Theatre of London: Love's Labour's Lost**

Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, October 29 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, October 30 at 8:00 pm  
Saturday, October 31 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm

April 21 – 24

**The Acting Company and the Guthrie Theater: Romeo and Juliet**

Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, April 22 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, April 23 at 8:00 pm  
Saturday, April 24 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm

**BY LOCAL**

All performances are in the Prince Theatre

Saturday, October 3

**West Philadelphia Orchestra (World music) 7:30pm**

Friday, October 16

**Silvana Cardell, *The Vertex* and Curt Haworth, *The Compromise* (Dance/Multimedia) 7:30pm**

Thursday, December 10

**Pieris Music *The Fountain* (New Music) 8pm**

Friday – Saturday, Jan 22 – 23

**BRAT Productions: *The Bald Soprano* (Theater/24 hour run)**

Saturday, February 6

**Winged Woman Dance *Residue* (Modern Dance with Penn Dance students) 7:30pm**

Sunday, Feb 14

**Kate Watson-Wallace/anonymous bodies: *the mentalist* (Dance-Theater-Video-Installation) 8pm**