



DANCE CELEBRATION

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**FROM JAZZ TO TAP, BROADWAY TO HIP-HOP,
DANCE CELEBRATION'S 28TH SEASON, "THE MAGIC OF MOVEMENT"
BRINGS SEVEN BLOCKBUSTER COMPANIES TO THE ANNENBERG CENTER**

**FALL 2009 KICKS OFF WITH THE LEGENDARY MAURICE HINES IN
*THANK YOU GREGORY, A TRIBUTE TO THE LEGENDS OF TAP***

Philadelphia, PA - Dance Celebration's 28th Season, "The Magic of Movement," features seven companies in 31 performances at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, **Dance Celebration**, presented by **Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center's Penn Presents**, maintains the tradition of bringing to Philadelphia the most sought-after contemporary touring dance companies. This season pays tribute to American dance, showcasing the diversity of home-grown styles from tap to Broadway, jazz to contemporary, hip-hop to multi-media and dance theater.

The Fall 2009 performance season spotlights three standout productions, kicking off with *Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap*, **October 6-10**, with seven performances starring Maurice Hines (Broadway star and Gregory's brother) and featuring Jason Samuels Smith, a stellar cast of hoofers, and a live band. Also in October, the whimsical and witty **BodyVox** premieres *Water Bodies*, **October 22-24**, a full-length multimedia work directed by MOMIX and Pilobolus alums **Jamey Hampton** and **Ashley Roland**; followed by hip-hop post-modern marvel **Doug Elkins & Friends** with *Fräulein Maria*, a hilarious spoof on Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved musical, *The Sound of Music*, **November 12-14**.

Produced by Dance Affiliates, written and conceived by Tony Waag and directed by Ann Marie DeAngelo, *Thank You Gregory (October 6-10, 2009)* 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 a 2005 show produced by Dance Affiliates which premiered at the Annenberg Center. Making its world debut and touring all over the country this year, this dazzling production also features stunning multimedia projections.

Directed by MOMIX and Pilobolus alums **Jamey Hampton** and **Ashley Roland**, **BodyVox's** multimedia production *Water Bodies (October 22-24, 2009)*, is a full-length, visually stunning work featuring ten 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** unleashes *Fräulein Maria (November 12-14, 2009)* the gender-bending and belly laugh-inducing parody of the 1965 film classic, *The Sound of Music* that features three

Marias, cross-dressing nuns, and an unforgettable hip-hop solo by Elkins to *Climb Every Mountain*.

For winter/spring 2010, Dance Celebration will feature **River North Chicago Dance Company (January 14-16, 2010)** celebrating its 20th anniversary by premiering works by Artistic Director Frank Chaves and choreographers Robert Battle and Lauri Stallings, including Chaves' *Habaneras*, *The Music of Cuba*; **Elizabeth Streb**, known as the Evil Knievel of Dance, debuting *Brave (February 4-6, 2010)*, featuring dancers flying and falling off moving sets; dance prodigy and ballet gold medalist Rasta Thomas' **Bad Boys of Dance (April 15-17, 2010)**, making its Philadelphia debut showcasing some of the best male dancers in the world in an awe-inspiring program of contemporary, hip-hop and jazz — not to mention coming fresh off their appearance on the hit series *So You Think You Can Dance?*; and **MOMIX, (May 20-22, 2010)**, closing the season with **Moses Pendleton's** newest creation - the mythical and magical *Botanica*, a spectacular celebration of nature and beauty, featuring colorful props and costumes by Michael Curry of *Lion King* fame, performed by an extraordinary troupe of dancer-illusionists.

All Dance Celebration performances will take place in the Zellerbach Theatre at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA, 19104. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900 or visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org. Subscriptions start at only \$168 for all seven shows — and are on sale now online, over the phone and in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office. Single Tickets go on sale August 31 and range from \$24-58.

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 2009-2010 season offers outreach activities by 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. For tickets to the Student Discovery performances, please call 215-898-6789.

Significant funding for the 2009-10 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, New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Presenters, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

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