

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2008

Contacts: Primary

Dance Affiliates: Anne-Marie Mulgrew
Director of Education & Special Projects
215-636-9000 ext.110
annemarie@danceaffiliates.org

Secondary

Annenberg Center: Stephanie Grant
Public Relations Manager
215-573-8537
sgrant@ac.upenn.edu

JPEG IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

DANCE CELEBRATION 27TH SEASON SALUTES *THE DANCEMAKER*
13 CHOREOGRAPHERS, 9 COMPANIES IN 29 PERFORMANCES

PHILADELPHIA, PA - Dance Celebration's 27th season, *The Dancemaker*, features 13 choreographers and 9 world-class dance companies in 29 performances at Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA. David Parsons, Lar Lubovitch, Ohad Naharin, Doug Varone and Nacho Duato bring new works reflecting the breadth, scope and vitality of contemporary dance. The Ballet Boyz returns with a powerhouse program by four choreographers of international fame – Christopher Wheeldon, Russell Maliphant, Liv Lorent and Craig Revel-Horwood. Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal premieres works by Italy's rising star Mauro Bigonzetti, and Brazil's Rodrigo Pederneiras, artistic director of Grupo Corpo. Canada's hip-hop/ballet sensation, Rubberbandance Group, under the direction of Victor Quijada, brings a Philly premiere. Israel's foremost companies, Batsheva Dance Company and Inbal Pinto Dance Company make their Philadelphia debuts in conjunction with Israel's 60th anniversary.

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration, presented at Annenberg Center by Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents, maintains the tradition of bringing to Philadelphia preeminent contemporary touring dance companies.

Lauded as "one of the great movers of modern dance" (New York Times), **Parsons Dance** (October 16-18) launches the season with a sizzling program of David Parsons' witty and sexy choreography featuring three Philadelphia premieres *Nascimento Novo* (2006), *Ebben* (2008), *My Sweet Lord* (2000) and the stroboscopic tour-de-force *Caught* (1982).

Inbal Pinto Dance Company performs its highly imaginative multimedia work *Shaker*, choreographed by Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak (October 29). In addition, the company will perform on October 28 to celebrate The Jewish New Year 5769 sponsored by PhillyIsrael, The Israeli Center for Greater Philadelphia; the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Center for Israel and Overseas; and the Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia. Set inside a stage-size snow-filled globe, *Shaker* incorporates a colorful set, outlandish costumes and expressive movement into one out-of-the-ordinary theatrical experience.

Breakdance meets ballet when **Rubberbandance Group** returns with the Philadelphia premiere of *Phase II* (November 6-8). This 90-minute multidisciplinary work features AV feeds, street demeanor and Quijada's clever and compelling movement language. *Globe and Mail* exclaims, "Eye-catching is almost too lame a word to describe Quijada's output."

Washington Post calls 2006 Obie Award winner Doug Varone "an exceptionally fluent dancemaker." **Doug Varone and Dancers** returns December 4-6. Varone's program includes *Boats Leaving* (2006) to Arvo Part's music, the explosive *Lux* (2006) to Philip Glass's *Light and Home* (1988), an emotional duet. **Lar Lubovitch Dance Company** performs a program choreographed by founder/artistic director Lar Lubovitch. Works include his 1986 masterpiece *Concerto Six Twenty-Two*, *Little Rhapsodies* to Robert Schumann's music and *Dworak Serenade* (2007). Lubovitch is known for his musicality, rhapsodic style and sophisticated structures. *New York Times* praises him as "one of the ten best choreographers in the world."

Canada's hip and charismatic **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal** premieres Bigonzetti's rousing *Rossini Cards* and Pederneiras' steamy *MAPA*, February 19-21. *Edmonton Journal* notes, "The dancers hit the stage full-on translating their technique into passion ... wowing audiences with their innovative, contemporary and easy to love programs."

London's cheeky and irreverent **Ballet Boyz** returns March 17-18 with a power-packed program by four stellar choreographers. The program includes: Maliphant's *Broken Fall*, winner of the Laurence Olivier Award for best new dance production; Liv Lorent's dazzling *Propellers*; Wheeldon's *Mesmerics*; and Revel-Horwood's *Tango Duet*. **The National Dance Company of Spain 2** closes the season (May 14-16) with a program of works by Nacho Duato, Spain's most celebrated choreographer, performed by an extraordinary troupe of dancers aged 17-21. *Gnawa* (2005), a full company work, is a reflection on his Mediterranean roots and the Gnawa people of Morocco to traditional Moroccan music. *Duende* (1991) is a sculptural work inspired by Claude Debussy's music and *Without Words* (1998), set to Franz Schubert's song scores, showcases Duato's fluid and sensual partnerings.

All performances will take place in the Zellerbach Theatre, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA, 19104-6219. For ticket information, contact the Box Office, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 215-898-3900 or www.pennpresents.org. Single Tickets are \$48-\$32.

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 2008-2009 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.

Significant funding for the 2008-2009 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, National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Presenters, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.