

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL CONNECTIONS ARE FEATURED
IN PARSONS DANCE'S OCT. 16-18, 2008
DANCE CELEBRATION ENGAGEMENT**

Philadelphia, PA - Parsons Dance kicks off the Dance Celebration 08-09 Season, *The Dancemaker*. Company members performing include two University of the Arts (UARTS) Alums – Patty Foster recipient of the “Best Performance in all Dance Forms Award” and John Corsa who performed in the 2007-2008 national tour of *Movin Out*. Steven Vaughan, presently a senior at University of the Arts is an apprentice dancer for the company.

Susan Glazer University of the Arts Director of Dance will conduct a free pre-performance talk on Friday, October 17 at 7pm, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA.

Performances will take place on Thursday, October 16 at 7:30pm; Friday, October 17 at 8 pm; and Saturday, October 18 at 2 pm and 8 pm. Ticket prices are \$48, \$42 and \$38 (evening); and \$42, \$36, \$32 (matinee). Tickets may be purchased by calling the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900, or by visiting www.pennpresents.org. There is a special \$15 ticket price for students with valid ID for Friday and Saturday performances. **Dance Celebration is presented by Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents. Its 27th season under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz salutes *The Dancemaker*.**

PATTY FOSTER is from Atlanta, GA. She began her performing career with The Georgia Ballet while attending The University of Georgia. Patty continued her education at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia on scholarship, where she graduated with honors with a BFA in modern dance performance and received the “Best Performance in All Dance Forms” award. Patty performed with the Philadelphia-based company JUNK and the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble in Detroit, MI. Patty has performed pieces choreographed by George Balanchine, Doris Humphrey and Bob Fosse. Patty joined Parsons Dance in 2006.

JOHN CORSA, a native of Boulder, CO, started his dance training at the age of 17. While in high school he co-founded The New Vista Dance Co. He later attended The University of The Arts on a scholarship from 2000 to 2002. John has had the privilege to study and work with Ruth Andrien, Betty Jones, Kenneth Tosti, Brian Sanders, Andrew Pap, Gerri Houlihan and Twyla Tharp to name a few. He has danced with The Open Door Dance Theater, Schuylkill Valley Regional Dance Company, Contempra Dance Theater, Momix, Diavolo Dance Theater, and the 2007-2008 National tour of *Movin Out*. He has toured world wide as well as taught internationally. John joined Parsons Dance in August 2008.

In addition to the performances, the Parsons Dance will conduct a free master class, Friday, October 17 at 1pm (taught by Patty Foster) and the Student Discovery Series Performance for Schools Friday, October 17 at 10:30am. For Dance Celebration Outreach information, contact Dance Affiliates 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.

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