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

Editors: Images are available upon request.

**DORRANCE DANCE
December 2 - 6
NextMove at the Prince
Michelle Dorrance named 2015 MacArthur “genius” Award recipient**

(Philadelphia, PA) Recognized for honoring tap’s rich history while pushing it boundaries, Dorrance Dance makes its Philadelphia debut December 2-6, Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street. The program features three works showcasing the breath and scale of artistic director Michelle Dorrance’s imaginative contemporary approaches to this legendary American artform. Dorrance notes “Every time I go onstage I want to redefine tap, to continuously move it forward.”

Performances take place Wednesday, December 2 at 7:30pm; Thursday, December 3 at 7:30pm; Friday, December 4 at 8pm; Saturday, December 5 at 2pm and 8pm; and Sunday, December 6 at 3pm. Tickets cost \$20-\$57 and can be purchased in person at the Prince Theater Box Office, by phone 215-422-4580 or online <http://princetheater.org> NextMove at the Prince is presented by Dance Affiliates, a leading presenter in world-class dance, under the direction of F. Randolph Swartz.

SOUNDspace (2013), initially a site-specific work that explored the acoustics of New York City’s St. Mark’s Church, opens the program. Re-imagined for the Prince Theater, Dorrance and her ensemble move in and out of view creating an aural chamber using the leather, metal and wood surfaces. The New York Times states, “Dorrance makes full use of tone, timbre, volume, tempo and, of course, rhythm, constructing patterns that lock together thrillingly.” Act 11 features *Excerpts from the Blues Project* (2013) *Blues in “D”* (2012), a celebration of tap’s rich mixed heritage. Originally conceived in collaboration with tap dancers Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards and Derick K. Grant and composer Toshi Reagon as a full-length work, this excerpted version showcases the distinctive improvisational and virtuosic talents of the current cast of dancers and musicians. The program closes with *ETM: The Initial Approach* (2014) consisting of sound boards as a physical set created by Nicholas Van Young (dancer/percussionist/composer/collaborator). The dancers perform on platforms that are activated by their contact to emit sounds and enable electronic looping, allowing a real-time exploration of how movement and sound affect each other. The dancers’ sounds are further informed by pushing the movement vocabulary to include hip-hop acrobatic moves such as flips, jumps, freezes and slides combined with partnering vocabulary from Lindy-hop to jazz to ballet resulting in a distinctive 21st Century display of sound, movement and technology.

“None of this work is remotely possible without tap dancer, percussionist, and innovator, my long-time friend, Nicholas Van Young. He is the man behind the curtain. He has been developing the instruments you see here and has been experimenting with the technologies you will see at work for years in order to make this work possible” said Michelle Dorrance.

Performers include: Megan Bartula, Chris Broughton, Leonardo Sandoval, Elizabeth Burke, Warren Craft, Michelle Dorrance, Karida Griffith, Claudia Rahardjanoto, Byron Tittle and Nicholas Van Young and musicians Donovan Dorrance, Michelle Dorrance, Aaron Marcellus, Nicholas Van Young with original music by Greg Richardson.

In addition to the performances, the company will perform two outreach activities – a Student Discovery program for schools on December 4 at 10:30am and a free master class on Thursday, December 3 at 1pm. The company will offer two post performance chats for ticket holders on Thursday and Saturday (2pm) immediately following the performance. For outreach information contact Annemarie@danceaffiliates.org

MICHELLE DORRANCE (Founder/Artistic Director/Choreographer/Performer) is one of the most sought after tap dancers of her generation and “one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today” (The New Yorker). . Dorrance is the recipient of a 2015 MacArthur “Genius” Award and recently appeared on *Late Night with Stephen Colbert*. Her honors include a 2014 Alpert Award Winner, 2013 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award winner, 2012 Princess Grace Award Winner, 2012 Field Dance Fund Recipient, and 2011 Bessie Award Winner. Dorrance performs, teaches and choreographs throughout the world. Mentored by Gene Medler, she grew up performing with the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble and has since performed with STOMP, Manhattan Tap, Savion Glover’s ‘Ti Di’, JazzTap Ensemble, Barbara Duffy & Co, Rumba Tap, Derick Grant’s Imagine Tap and Jason Samuels Smith’s *Chasing the Bird*. She holds a BA from NYU and teaches on faculty at Broadway Dance Center.

DORRANCE DANCE, founded in 2011 by Artistic Director Michelle Dorrance, aims to honor tap dance’s uniquely beautiful history in a new, dynamic, and compelling context; not by stripping the form of its tradition, but by pushing it rhythmically, aesthetically, and conceptually. Dorrance Dance’s inaugural performance garnered a 2011 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for “blasting open our notions of tap.” The company has performed at Jacob’s Pillow, The Joyce Theater, White Bird, Danspace Project, the Kennedy Center, New York City Center, The Yard, Symphony Space, Spoleto Festival USA, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Barcelona Tap Festival, D.C. Tap Festival, North Carolina Rhythm Tap Festival, Soul to Sole Festival, Vancouver Tap Festival and Beantown Tap Festival’s On Tap!.

Support for Dance Affiliates

Dance Affiliates’ inaugural NextMove Series is supported by the Friends of Dance (Affiliates), National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the William Penn Foundation. State arts funding is received through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency.

Dance Affiliates

Founded in 1979 by artistic director Randy Swartz, Dance Affiliates is one of the nation’s few remaining dance-only presenters. Dance Affiliates was known internationally for its award-winning annual Dance Celebration program co-presented with Annenberg Center which was Philadelphia’s longest-running series of world-class contemporary dance for the past 32-years. Having presented more than 200 companies in 2,000 performances, Dance Affiliates provides a wealth of opportunities for the Philadelphia–area community to interact with visiting dance artists through master classes, residencies, artistic collaborations, symposiums, film screenings, workshops, special student programs and pre- and post-performance curtain talks. Through more than 600 outreach programs, 30,000 students and aspiring dancers have been served. Visit www.danceaffiliates.org

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For More Information or Interviews: Dance Affiliates, Anne-Marie Mulgrew
215-636-9000 Ext. 110 annemarie@danceaffiliates.org