



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company  
brings four exuberant works to the NextMove Dance Series  
fusing African dance and contemporary dance  
December 14-17**

(Philadelphia, PA) Known for its joyful and celebratory works, Ronald K. Brown/Evidence brings the Philadelphia premiere of *New Conversations: First Look* (2017) created in collaboration with multi-Grammy Award winning composer Arturo O’Farrill, December 14-17, at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. The program spanning 20 years of Artistic Director, Ronald K. Brown’s visionary works also includes *Ebony Magazine: To A Village* (1996), *Torch* (2013), and *Four Corners* (2014).

Performances take place Thursday, December 14 at 7:30pm; Friday, December 15 at 8:00pm; Saturday, December 16 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday December 17 at 3pm. Tickets are \$20-\$62 and can be purchased in person at the Prince Theater Box Office, by phone 215-422-4580 or online <http://princetheater.org/next-move>.

*Torch*, an infectious and powerful work, opens the program to music by Teddy Douglas & DJ Zinhle featuring Busiswa Gqula. *Torch* showcases Brown’s exploration of the human condition by masterfully integrating African traditional dance with contemporary dance and spoken word. The New York Times notes, “The power of Ronald K. Brown’s choreography lies in its myriad layers. There is an undeniable way his propulsive movement crosses beyond the stage. Yes this is the rare choreographer who makes you want to get up and dance.”

*Ebony Magazine: To A Village*, set to rousing music by Wunmi Olaiya, features seven dancers parading about posing almost like mannequins while questioning one’s perceptions of beauty. The clever mantra in the score “Do you see what I see” by Brown looks at the juxtaposition between bourgeois Black American Culture and its African counterparts. Judith Jamison (former artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater), was so moved in seeing the work she invited Brown to create the powerful dance (*Grace* 1999) for Ailey.

*New Conversations: First Look* is a deepening of a collaboration between Ronald K. Brown and Grammy award winning jazz composer Arturo O’ Farrill. In 2015, Brown and O’Farrill collaborated on the world premiere of *Open Door* for the Alvin Ailey

American Dance Theater that explored the connections between African rooted arts in the New World. *New Conversations* is built on Ochosi - a Cuban Orisha in the Santeria religion that is a hunter and has both male and female appearances. It is set to music by Arturo O'Farill Afro Jazz Latin Ensemble.

In *Four Corners*, Brown was inspired by friend and recording artist Carl Hancock Rux's lyrics from "Lamentations." The dance explores spiritual seekers amid four angels standing on four corners of the earth. Brown's grounded movements portray figures who are burdened by grief but ultimately find solace, peace and freedom with the aid of the angels. Brown, who is also an avid storyteller and writer, expressed his love for poems. "There's something about the rhythm and richness of the spoken word that goes right to my heart. When I am dreaming about movement, poetry comes out." *Four Corners* was commissioned by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2013. Brown observes. "I am a spiritual person. My mother's side of the family was Pentecostal. No dancing allowed. But I am also from several generations of family churches on my father's side and down in North Carolina on visits, I was encouraged to dance."

In addition to the performances, Ronald K. Brown/Evidence will be offering two outreach activities – The Student Discovery Series program for schools, Friday, December 15 at 10:30am and a master class, Friday, December 15 at 1pm at Philadanco, 9 N. Preston Street, Philadelphia, PA. There will also be two post-performance chats that will take place after Friday's 8pm and Saturday's 2pm performances.

Founded by Ronald K. Brown in 1985 and based in Brooklyn, New York, **EVIDENCE, A DANCE COMPANY** focuses on the fusion of African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word. This work provides a unique view of human struggles, tragedies, and triumphs. Brown uses movement as a way to reinforce the importance of community in African American culture and to acquaint audiences with the beauty of African forms and rhythms. Evidence tours to some 30 communities in the United States annually. It has traveled to Cuba, Brazil, England, France, Greece, Hungary, Hawaii, Ireland, Holland, Mexico, Columbia, South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, and in 2010 joined the U.S. State Department's DanceMotion USA tour to perform, teach master classes and conduct demonstrations. Annually, the company reaches an audience of more than 30,000.

**RONALD K. BROWN** (Founder/ Artistic Director) founded Evidence, A Dance Company in 1985. He has worked with Mary Anthony Dance Theater, and Jennifer Muller/The Works. Brown has set works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Jeune Ballet d'Afrique Noire, Ko-Thi Dance Company, Philadanco, Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago, Ballet Hispanico, Malpaso Dance Company and TU Dance. He won an AUDELCO Award for his choreography in Regina Taylor's award-winning play *Crowns*, received two Black Theater Alliance Awards, and a Fred & Adele Astaire Award for Outstanding Choreography in the Tony Award winning Broadway and national touring production of *The Gershwin's Porgy & Bess*, adapted by Suzan Lori Parks, arrangement by Diedre Murray & directed by Diane Paulus. In addition Brown was named Def Dance Jam Workshop 2000 Mentor of the Year and has received; the Doris Duke Artist Award, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, United States Artists Fellowship, a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award, and The Ailey Apex Award. Brown is a member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society and is the Co-Artistic Director of the Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble at Restoration ART.

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#### **NextMove Dance**

Artistic Director Randy Swartz created the first annual dance series in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theatre in 1970. In 1983, he launched the Dance Celebration series at the Annenberg Center for a 32-year run and initiated a new annual series at the Prince Theater in October 2015. Dance Affiliates, renamed NextMove Dance, is recognized as one of the nation's finest dance presenters. Known internationally for award-winning presentations for almost four decades, NextMove Dance provides a wealth of opportunities

for the Delaware Valley community to interact with the artists through talk-backs, master classes, artistic collaborations, workshops, children's programs and much more. Visit [www.nextmovedance.org](http://www.nextmovedance.org)

**For interviews or more information contact:**

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