



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

NextMove Dance Anne-Marie Mulgrew, Director of Education & Special Projects
215-636-9000 ext. 110, annemarie@nextmovedance.org

Carrie Hartman, Grimm & Grove Communications
215-704-0917, carrie@grimmandgrove.com

Editors: Images are available upon request.

**NextMove Dance announces its 2017-2018 season
Featuring eight companies from six countries
October 12, 2017 – May 13, 2018**

(Philadelphia, PA) NextMove Dance (NMD), Philadelphia's presenter of contemporary dance, launches its 2017-2018 "Season of WOW" with company debuts, local premieres, and masterworks in 40 performances at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, October 12, 2017- May 13, 2018. NMD's 2017-2018 Season is made possible in part by major support from The William Penn Foundation.

Making its Philadelphia debut and opening the season is Algeria's all-male **Compagnie Hervé Koubi** whose style meshes contemporary with hip-hop (**October 12-15**). The **Paul Taylor Dance Company** performs three of Taylor's greatest hits including *Esplanade* (**November 2-5**) and **Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company** performs *Torch*, an infectious work fusing African and contemporary dance (**December 14-17**). **BodyVox** returns with its retrospective 20th Anniversary program, *Urban Meadow* (**January 18-21**) and Canada's **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal** dances the Philadelphia premiere of *O Balcao de Amor* by Itzik Galili to music by Perez Prado (**February 15-18**). **Company Wang-Ramirez** makes its Philadelphia debut with *Monchichi*, a riveting urban Tanz theater work where cultures and genres collide (**March 15-18**) and **Nai-Ni Chen with The Ahn Trio** perform the full-length work, *A Quest for Freedom*, with live music (**April 19-22**). **MOMIX** closes the season (**May 10-13**) with a production showcasing its best hits including Philadelphia premieres.

Featuring 40% discounts and many benefits, subscriptions packages are available. Subscriptions can be purchased at the Prince Theater box office, by phone 215-422-4580 or online at <http://princetheater.org/next-move>. Single tickets (\$42-\$62) are available as of September 1. Performances take place on Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays at 8pm; Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm; and Sundays at 3pm.

Program Highlights

Compagnie Hervé Koubi

October 12-15

"A stunning fusion of acrobatics, gymnastics, b-boying, modern dance and ballet." The Washington Post

"Mystifies audiences at the dual display of gymnastics and grace unlike anything in Western dance."

The Washington Post

Making its Philadelphia debut, this Algerian troupe of 16 extraordinarily talented male dancers performs Artistic Director Hervé Koubi's *Ce que le jour doit à la nuit (What the day owes to the night)*. First Prize winner of the International Dance Festival (Algiers), this full-length work is filled with evocative imagery based on Asian paintings and the stone filigree of Islamic architecture, making a powerful statement while bridging cultures and dance genres. Set to music of Maxim Bodson, Hamza El Din par Kronos Quartet, Bach and Sufi music, *Ce Que* is part spectacle and part ritual with dancers twirling like Dervishes or head spinning like b-boys as they defy physics and gravity.

Paul Taylor Dance Company

November 2-5

"Mr. Taylor proves himself the greatest choreographer alive." New York Times

"A sure slice of heaven." Time Out New York

One of America's most legendary dance makers who created 142 dances, Paul Taylor has defined modern dance in America. His company brings three of his masterworks in a rarely experienced greatest hits program that showcases Taylor's uncanny wit and humanity. *Esplanade* (1975), Taylor's signature work to Bach, is built on the joyfulness of everyday movement running, falling and catching. *Company B* (1991), set to the hit songs of the Andrew Sisters, evokes the spirit of the 1940's with America going to war and the dualities inherent in facing one's mortality yet living fully. Vignettes feature young lovers wildly dancing the Lindy, jitterbug and polka while shadowy images of soldiers lurk in the background. Newsweek notes it has "some of the most glorious dancing to be seen anywhere." The program also includes the romantic and sentimental *Arden Court* (1981) to music by 18th Century composer William Boyce. Arlene Croce, in her 1981 review of its premiere, called it "a virtuoso showpiece... a must-see."

Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company

December 14-17

"...this is the rare choreographer who makes you want to get up and dance." New York Times

"The dancing is undeniably powerful; it sweeps you up in its physical tumult and strong emotions. There is nothing cool and restrained about Brown's works..." The Washington Post

Dance maker extraordinaire Ronald K. Brown has created a personal movement vocabulary drawn from the African Diaspora and American modern dance. He has the distinction of setting a full evening of his works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, being the first American choreographer to create a work for Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company, and choreographer for Broadway's revival of *Porgie & Bess* and *Gatekeepers* for Philadanco. **Evidence** tells stories about the struggles, the tragedies and triumphs of the human spirit through African Dance, contemporary dance, music, and spoken word. The New York Times calls Brown's *Four Corners* (2013) "a jewel of a dance," where Brown explores spirituality. *New Conversations* is Brown's newest collaboration with multi-Grammy Award winning composer Arturo O'Farrill. The program will also include *Torch* (2013) an infectious, kinetic and expressive dance to music by Teddy Douglas & DJ Zinhle featuring Busiswa Gqulu

BodyVox

January 18-21

"Deliriously imaginative." LA Times

"Led by Emmy-Award winning choreographers Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland, BodyVox showed us its visual virtuosity, distinctive wit and ability to combine dance, theater and film into productions rich in imagery, athleticism and humor." The Register-Guard

Celebrating 20 years of bringing happy, fun and innovative dance theatrics to the stage, BodyVox performs *Urban Meadow*, a compilation of its greatest works, including the Velcro super hero *Captain Tenacity*, along with engaging award-winning

films by Mitchell Rose. Vignettes such as *Urban Meadow*, to music by Vivek Maddala, is a hilarious tale about the sheep and the wolf featuring dancers in caps with sheep ears and off-white sheep robes. Always playful and inventive, this irrepressible troupe from Portland Oregon mixes athleticism, humor and imagery into a unique vision that exudes its directors/founders (Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland) heritage of dancing internationally with MOMIX, ISO and Pilobolus.

Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal

February 15-18

"The troupe is famed for its feel-good shows and its 14 dancers delivered a dazzling performance."

South China Morning Post

"A world of wonder... A rare accomplishment in the world of contemporary dance." The Boston Globe

"*O Balcao* is a joyous, quirky, sexy ensemble piece... pure enjoyment... infectious music and palpable sense of fun...superb dancing." Time Out Shanghai

One of the world's great dance companies returns bringing one of the best international choreographers along with a troupe of dancers second to none. Itzik Galili has created 60 works for companies such as NDT2, Batsheva Dance Company, Rambert Dance, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo and Stuttgart Ballet. His *O Balcao de Amor* (a Philadelphia premiere) is an ode to Havana with music by Perez Prado, rekindling the spontaneity and joy of our youth featuring characters such as the playboy, the top model, the nerd and the Miami Gangster. *Mono Lisa*, set to the sound of typewriters, is a physically-riveting duet performed by star dancer Celine Cassone. This duet, en pointe, showcases her sublime physicality, endless flexible limbs, and mesmerizing stage presence. Set to the music by Freres Grand, *Casualties of Memory* (a Philadelphia premiere) is a highly-theatrical 30-minute work referred to as "a unique tour de force." Het Parool (Amsterdam)

Company Wang Ramirez

March 15-18

"A brilliant duo where humor surprises us in the midst of movement. A duet of love and grace. A moment of rare intensity..." L'indpendant (France)

"Sheer choreographic brilliance... it kept you on the edge of your seat." Dance Magazine

Sebastian Ramirez is a Frenchman with Catalanian and Spanish roots. Honji Wang is a Korean woman born in Germany. They are a couple in life and on stage. Their choreographic style is often referred to as urban Tanztheater and has won them many accolades such as Outstanding Performers Award at the Bessies and for their appearance at Breakin' Convention at New York's Apollo Theater. *Monchichi* (2011), a full-length work rooted in hip hop, contemporary, martial arts, ballet and dancetheater, is a self-portrait in life and love filled with humor and self-deprecation.

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company with The Ahn Trio

April 19-22

"A blossom of color, energy and motion, like endlessly proliferating forces of cosmic energy." The New York Times

"...an adventurous evening of music-making and dancing..." The Star-Ledger

A Quest for Freedom is inspired by the personal stories of Nai-Ni Chen, a Taiwanese choreographer-dancer who emigrated to America and the Ahn Trio, three sisters (Angella and twins Lucia and Maria) born in Seoul, Korea who moved to New York to train at The Julliard School. This captivating full-length multi-cultural production examines leaving one's home, family and friends to embrace new dreams and freedom. Nai-Ni Chen's movement language draws from the flowing lines of Chinese calligraphy to the explosiveness of martial arts to the innovation of contemporary dance taking audiences beyond cultural boundaries. The Ahn Trio is seamlessly integrated into the choreography creating a visually and aurally delightful experience. The talented and glamorous musicians were named three of People Magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People." National Endowment for the Arts Fellow Nai-Ni Chen is the recipient of China's coveted Golden Lotus Award.

MOMIX

May 10-13

"People shouted out, gasped and applauded furiously. MOMIX is ideal for turning audiences onto dance." L.A. Examiner

"MOMIX dazzles with undefinable grace, personality." New Orleans Time-Picayune

“The mad and marvelous troupe has all the mesmeric power of a magic show.” The Globe and Mail (Toronto)

MOMIX, a troupe of daring dance illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton, brings its latest mix of multi-media magic. Known for presenting works of astounding beauty and exceptional invention, MOMIX productions combine the wonders of the human form, nature, music and life, using spectacular lighting effects, outrageous costumes and unbelievable props to enchant audiences of all ages. The program features MOMIX’s best hits plus three Philadelphia premieres: *Daddy Long Legs*, *Light Reins* and *Paper View*. *Paper View* is a visual phantasm that melds projections, words and movements in ways that cannot be imagined!

Major funding for the 2017/18 season of NextMove Dance is provided by William Penn Foundation. Additional 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 for the Arts, a federal agency. Support provided by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

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 more than three 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.

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For More Information or Interviews:

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