



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Paul Taylor Dance Company performs  
three of Mr. Taylor's Master Works  
November 2-5**

(Philadelphia, PA) The legendary Paul Taylor Dance Company brings a rare program featuring three of Taylor's classic works for NextMove Dance's 2017-2018 Season with five performances November 2-5, at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. The program includes *Arden Court* (1981), *Company B* (1991) and *Esplanade* (1975)

Performances take place Thursday, November 2 at 7:30pm; Friday, November 3 at 8:00pm; Saturday, November 4 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday November 5 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>.

Opening the program is the romantic and uplifting *Arden Court* for nine dancers set to music by 18<sup>th</sup> century Baroque English composer William Boyce. This 23-minute work showcases the virtuosity of the six male dancers in effortless yet weighted jumps and changes in speed and dynamic level. Interspersing the ensemble sections are tender yet whimsical duets. Bare-torso male dancers are in tights with colored spots and women are in matching chiffon dresses designed by Gene Moore. Clive Barnes of the New York Post noted "One of the few great art works created in [the 20th] century... exploring a new movement field of love and relationship. The women dance into the men's arms as if Shakespeare had only written Romeo and Juliet the day before yesterday. I am convinced that this is one of the sentimental works of our time... something extraordinary in the history of dance. It bounces to a different drummer."

In *Company B*, Taylor explores mortality, taboos and the righteousness of the American myth. Set to songs sung the Andrews Sisters, this 10-section work contrasts the shadowy images of soldiers during World War Two juxtaposed against the merriment of movements inspired by social dances of the time - the polka, lindy and jitterbug. Sections so named from the song titles include "Oh Johnny, Oh Johnny, Oh!," the "Pennsylvania Polka," "Tico-Tico," "Bei Mir Bist du Schön," and the "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy (of Company B)." Anna Kisselgoff in her 1991 New York Times review called the work, "A smash hit."

*Esplanade*, one of Mr. Taylor's most celebrated signature works, closes the program. *Esplanade* is an outdoor place to walk. The genesis of the piece comes from Mr. Taylor observing a young girl running to catch a bus. Created during the time when

visual artists where using "found objects" in their artworks, Taylor explored found movements such as standing, running, falling, lifting and catching to create this masterwork performed by nine dancers brimming with youthful exuberance. Set to Bach's "Violin Concerto in E Major," dancers barrel across the stage with fearless runs, thrilling dives to the floor, and daring catches and rolls prompting a range of reactions - laughs, shouts, sobs, and gasps.

In addition to the performances, the Paul Taylor Dance Company will be offering a master class, Friday November 3 at 1pm at University of the Arts Dance Department, 211 S. Broad Street, Phila. PA and two post-performance chats that will take place after Friday's 8pm and Saturday's 2pm performances.

### **ABOUT THE PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY**

Dance maker Paul Taylor first presented his choreography with five other dancers in Manhattan on May 30, 1954. That modest performance marked the beginning of more than 60 years of unrivaled creativity in 144 works in the decades that followed, Mr. Taylor became a cultural icon and one of history's most celebrated artists, hailed as part of the pantheon that created American modern dance.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company (PTDC) has traveled the world, performing in 520 cities in 64 countries, representing the United States at arts festivals in 40 countries. In 1997 the Company toured throughout India in celebration of that nation's 50th Anniversary. Its 1999 engagement in Chile was named the Best International Dance Event of 1999 by the country's Art Critics' Circle. In the summer of 2001 the Company toured in the People's Republic of China and performed in six cities. In the spring of 2003 the Company mounted a four-week, seven-city tour of the United Kingdom. The Company's performances in China in 2016 marked its fifth tour there. Paul Taylor first appeared in Philadelphia in 1971 performing with his company on the Dance Series at the Walnut Street Theater under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz. Since then, the Paul Taylor Dance Company has returned for a dozen engagements under the aegis of what is now known as NextMove Dance.

Beginning with its first television appearance for the Dance in America series in 1978, PTDC has appeared on PBS in ten different programs, including the 1992 Emmy Award-winning *Speaking in Tongues* and *The Wrecker's Ball* -- including *Company B*, *Funny Papers*, and *A Field of Grass*. In 1999 the PBS American Masters series aired *Dancemaker*, the Academy Award nominated documentary about Mr. Taylor and his Company. In 2013, PBS aired *Paul Taylor Dance Company in Paris*, featuring *Brandenburgs* and *Beloved Renegade*.

Three of Paul Taylor company members have local connections. Sean Mahoney was born and raised in Bethlehem, PA, studied at Princeton Ballet School and joined PTDC in 2004. Jamie Rae Walker was born in Levittown, PA, trained at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and joined PTDC in 2008. Michael Novak attended University of the Arts on full scholarship and the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet and joined the Company in 2010.

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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 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. Visit [www.nextmovedance.org](http://www.nextmovedance.org)

### **For interviews or more information contact:**

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