



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

Editors: Images are available upon request.

**BodyVox kicks off the New Year with
Urban Meadow January 18-21
Mixing athleticism, humor, theatrics and award-winning films
Presented by NextMove Dance at the Prince Theater**

(Philadelphia, PA) Led by Emmy-Award winning choreographers and Pilobolus and MOMIX alums, Ashley Roland and Jamey Hampton, BodyVox brings its highly-imaginative *Urban Meadow*, January 18-21, to the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. The program celebrates the company's 20th Anniversary with a best of the best compilation program of 12 short works and two award-winning films created in collaboration with Mitchell Rose.

Performances take place Thursday, January 18 at 7:30pm; Friday, January 19 at 8:00pm; Saturday, January 20 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, January 21 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>.

Urban Meadow opens with *Firewall* (2014), a theatrical mixed media work using lasers, wind-wands and optical illusions choreographed by Roland and Hampton to music by Eno-Hyde. This work explores the hidden technology that shields us from 'unwanted data' playing on themes of fire, walls, and spyware games. The amusing *Open Line* (2005) features dancers in mix matched plaid and striped outfits holding cell phone taking calls from audience members. In contrast, *S.O.S.* (2004) set to music by Jean Sibelius, choreographed by Hampton, is an elegy celebrating the endurance of the human spirit. Sections feature a quartet for four men in overcoats over union suits joined by two women in satiny nightgowns looking at overhead projections of an icy sea as they move together as if in a lifeboat.

Additional highlights include *Captain Tenacity* (1987), an hilarious solo choreographed and performed by Ashley Roland based the antics of a superhero and a Velcro suit set to Richard Wagner's "Theater of Blood" and *Little Drop of Poison*, a heated duet to music by Tom Waits originally choreographed and performed by Roland and Hampton. *Urban Meadow* is a droll tale of the sheep and the wolf with dancers in caps with sheep ears to music by Vivek Maddala. Closing the program is the breezy *Café Blanco* (2015), which opens with the ensemble in white costumes on scooters. Oregon Arts Watch notes, "It ends the show with a very American exuberance ... providing considerable distraction at a time when as Americans we need it."

The program also features two films *Treadmill Softly* and *Advance* by Mitchell Rose, choreographed by Roland and Hampton.

Treadmill Softly features a man (Hampton) fantasizing about a woman (Roland) while working out on bicycles at a gym. Film Finder calls it "A triumph of a short film nothing short of brilliant." *Advance* is one dance for two dancers

(Hampton/Roland) for 2 minutes in 50 locations. It received five festival awards including the Audience Award Dance Camera West.

In addition to the performances, BodyVox will be offering two outreach activities. "An Evening of BodyVox's Films" will take place Wednesday, January 17 at 7:30pm-9:00pm. This free event is hosted by Ashley Roland and Jamey Hampton at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. There will also be a master class on Friday, January 19 at 1pm, Koresh Dance Center, 2002 Rittenhouse Street and two post-performance chats that will take place after Friday's 8pm and Saturday's 2pm performances.

About BodyVox

Led by Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland, BodyVox is known for its visual virtuosity, distinctive wit and unique ability to combine dance, theater and film into breathtaking productions rich in imagery, athleticism and humor. Since its founding in 1997, BodyVox has toured to critical acclaim on stage worldwide, developed 9 award winning films, 18 original shows and 3 operas, featuring over 200 original dances. Based in Portland, Oregon, BodyVox's movement surges from a fascination with the endless possibilities of the human body in motion, informed by years of cross training and layers of experience. Hampton and Roland are distinguished artists on the world stage, formed by their years working as creators and performers with innovative dance companies MOMIX, ISO Dance, and Pilobolus. Adding to its full-evening shows and repertory pieces, BodyVox's films have won awards in national and international festivals. "Modern Daydreams" - composed of "Treadmill Softly," "Islands in the Sky," "Unleashed" and "Deere John" - won the prestigious American Choreography Award for Outstanding Achievement in Short film in 2002.

JAMEY HAMPTON (Artistic Director) has had a storied career in dance, theater, television, and film that has spanned four decades. Born in Portland, Oregon, he was a distinguished athlete in high school, receiving varsity letters in track and football. He attended Dartmouth College, where he was a competitive ski racer, rugby player, as well as rowing stroke on the freshman crew team. Dartmouth was also where Hampton began dancing in earnest, meeting Pilobolus Dance Theater while pursuing a BFA degree in Theater. After Dartmouth, he danced with Pilobolus worldwide for five years. He then helped form and danced with MOMIX from 1982-87, followed by ISO Dance from 1987-1995. In 1997 he formed BodyVox with his partner, Ashley Roland. Now in its 20th season, BodyVox is a vibrant and singular dance company known to audiences for its ebullient and deeply imaginative work.

ASHLEY ROLAND (Artistic Director) is a true American original. With an unparalleled imagination and an acuity in both choreography and theatrical effect, she creates work that is unbridled and unabashed, resonating deeply with audiences. After attending North Carolina School of the Arts, Roland helped form MOMIX, setting off on a string of international tours that took her to Paris, London, Tokyo, Rome, New York, Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro, and every major city in the world. In 1987, she formed ISO Dance with her partner Jamey Hampton. ISO toured the world for seven years with a robust schedule, which included choreography for international fashion shows, arena rock productions, videos and print ad campaigns. Roland has collaborated with the preeminent dance photographer, Lois Greenfield, on thousands of still images. She co-founded BodyVox in 1997 with Jamey Hampton. Now in its 20th season, BodyVox reflects everything that Roland is: Endlessly creative and truly unique.

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 is also provided by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund. BodyVox's film event is funded by Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation.

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

For interviews or more information contact:

Anne-Marie Mulgrew annemarie@nextmovedance.org or 215-636-9000 ext. 110

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