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For Immediate Release

MAY 5, 2011

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts celebrates 40 years during 11/12 season

Highlights include:

Introduction of Latin and Asian Roots series with performances by Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band, Shantala Shivalingappa and Zakir Hussain

Dance Celebration season, co-presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, takes audiences on a journey around the world with companies from Canada, the United States, Brazil, Israel and Australia

New works by MOMIX, Chunky Move, RUBBERBANDance and DanceBrazil;
Special non-subscription event Champions of the Dance, featuring dancers from ABC's "Dancing with the Stars"

Saxophonist Joshua Redman and pianist Brad Mehldau perform together to headline Jazz Series

Jazz pianist Hiromi, Ravi Coltrane, Jason Marsalis, Simone and Kurt Elling also perform as part of Jazz Series

African Roots Series features *Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown*, the call-and-response vocals of Spirit of Uganda and Kenya's Kenge Kenge

Irish group Danú performs special Irish Christmas Celebration – *An Nollaig in Éirinn*

Ireland's acclaimed Gate Theatre Company performs two seminal works by Samuel Beckett – *Endgame* and *Watt*

The Civilians turn controversy into art with *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards*

By Local Series continues commitment to showcase the best of Philadelphia talent

(Philadelphia, May 5, 2011) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, one of the nation's preeminent urban performing arts centers on a major university campus, celebrates 40 years of presenting world-renowned and emerging artists and companies during the 11/12 season. The home of Dance Celebration, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival, and the very stage where legendary Broadway directors Harold Prince and Joseph Papp premiered award-winning theatre productions, the Annenberg Center has brought some of the world's greatest musicians, dance troupes and theatre productions to millions of Philadelphians since opening its doors in 1971.

Featuring seven distinct performance series that juxtapose tradition with the cutting edge, the 11/12 season pays homage to the Annenberg Center's rich history of presenting artists from all corners of the globe, and marks the introduction of Asian and Latin Roots series. The upcoming season includes 75 performances plus the Philadelphia International Children's Festival and runs from September 16, 2011 – May 19, 2012. Subscriptions to the 11/12 season are on sale now and can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Single tickets will be on sale in September.

"This is a beacon year for the Annenberg Center and all that it has stood for and achieved over the past four decades as one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures," notes Managing Director, Dr. Michael J. Rose. "With a dedication to excellence and innovation in the performing arts, to new forms of audience engagement, and to support for a diverse and thriving cultural community, the Center proudly reaffirms its core belief in the power of the arts to transform lives. Emphasizing unity in diversity, tradition and innovation, and the integration of arts and ideas, the new season features brilliantly talented artists and thought-provoking work from across the nation and around the world to challenge and inspire new and returning audiences and connect the University with its great city."

DANCE CELEBRATION – OUT OF THIS WORLD

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, continues to bring to Philadelphia the most sought-after international contemporary touring dance companies and artists each season. The 11/12 season, titled "**Out of this World**," speaks to the universal language of dance and features seven companies from four continents in 25 performances, plus a non-subscription special event in six performances inspired by and featuring dancers from ABC's top-rated show "Dancing with the Stars."

"Dance truly is a universal language, but has many accents," said Swartz. "It is those cultural inflections that delight, entertain, and enthrall us anew. *Out of This World* will engage your senses from an international perspective. Take a trip around the world without leaving Philadelphia."

Known for theatrical invention and high-tech special effects, the Australian-based dance company **Chunky Move**, makes its Dance Celebration debut with the Philadelphia premiere of **Connected**, a work created by founding Artistic Director Gideon Obarzanek and the extraordinary sculptor Reuben Margolin (**November 17-19, 2011**). *Connected* explores the physical connection

between constantly moving dancers and kinetic design. Beginning with simple movements and hundreds of tiny pieces, the dancers construct the awe-inspiring sculpture in real performance time.

The New York Times has called her “a hurricane of unbridled imaginativeness,” some have described her work as avant-garde, while others simply refer to her as the queen of contemporary dance. Under the direction of Artistic Director Marie Chouinard, the Montreal-based **Compagnie Marie Chouinard (December 8-10, 2011)** has become a fixture on the international dance scene, recently celebrating 20 years of distinctive choreographic style and visually stunning works that explore the poetics of the body in immediate, intelligible and surprising ways. Inspired by Vaslav Nijinsky's choreography, Compagnie Marie Chouinard will perform *Le sacre du printemps (Rite of Spring)*, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)* and *24 Preludes by Chopin*.

ABC's top-rated show “Dancing with the Stars” has re-ignited interest in international ballroom dance around the globe. Dance Celebration brings the world's top ballroom dance professionals together on stage for a spectacular evening filled with color, gowns, lights and extraordinary footwork **(December 15-18, 2011)**. **Champions of the Dance** showcases 10 national and international champions, including Jonathan Roberts and Anna Trebunskaya from “Dancing with the Stars,” under the direction of top notch coach and judge Taliat Tarsinov. Tarsinov holds 20 world and European titles and has choreographed for “Dancing with the Stars” and “America's Ballroom Challenge.” All performances will include pre- and post-show lessons and demonstrations.

Canadian dance troupe **RUBBERBANDance Group (RBDG)** have made a name for itself with works that are a thrilling and seamless blend of hip hop, ballet and modern dance. Led by Artistic Director Victor Quijada, RBDG presents the Philadelphia premiere of ***Gravity of Center (January 19-21, 2012)***. In a setting outside of time, the piece explores the contradictory relationship between interdependence and the constant quest for freedom. With syncopated rhythms and physical prowess, the four dancers come together, tear apart, desire one another and jostle one another in a disconcerting fluidity of action.

Tel-Aviv-based **Inbal Pinto & Avshalom Pollak Dance Company** return with the much-anticipated Philadelphia debut of ***Oyster***, a full-length work the *Village Voice* describes as “part surreal vaudeville, part circus, and part toy store after midnight” **(February 9-11, 2012)**. Drawing its name from a collection of short stories by the eccentric filmmaker Tim Burton, this comic, touching and visually-stunning piece is comprised of a series of vignettes employing ballet, mime, modern dance, physical comedy and acrobatics and starring circus-like characters clothed in extravagant and fanciful costumes set off by white painted faces, doll-like make-up and hair standing on end.

For more than 30 years, **DanceBrazil** has thrilled audiences throughout the world by fusing Afro-Brazilian culture, live music, contemporary dance and Capoeira, the African dance/martial arts form that evolved in colonial Brazil as a means of fighting enslavement. The company returns to Philadelphia to explore the cultural, historical, and religious connections between Brazil and Africa. The work will feature the company's eight contemporary dancers and four capoeiristas, many of whom have trained

in this Brazilian martial art with Dance Brazil Artistic Director Jelon Vieira since childhood. Also on the program is the piece **Banguela**, a mesmerizing work built on the rhythmic interludes used by capoeiristas to calm down and strategize between intense cultural rituals (**March 22-24, 2012**).

Sleek, gorgeous dancing and works by well-known figures of contemporary dance such as Crystal Pite (Vancouver), Rodrigo Pederneiras (of the Brazilian company Grupo Corpo), Mauro Bigonzetti (of the Italian company Aterballetto), Aszure Barton (New York) and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (Amsterdam) continue to make Canada's **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (April 19-21, 2012)** among the most popular contemporary companies of today. Part ballet, part modern, part street dance, and part avant garde, Ballets Jazz defies categorization with its infectious blend of hip, funky moves infused with high energy, humor and imagination. Established in 1972, the company celebrates 40 years in 2012.

For over 30 years, audiences have delighted in the visual fantasy and stunning physicality that is **MOMIX**. Celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body, Moses Pendleton's troupe of dancer-illusionists will bring new works about water and re-imagined classic pieces to Philadelphia to close the 11/12 season (**May 17-20, 2012**).

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 11/12 season offers outreach activities by all the touring companies for the local community. These programs include master classes, workshops, and residencies as part of the Artist to Artist Series as well as hour-long performances by select companies and talk back sessions after the show in the Student Discovery Series. For more information about outreach activities call 215.636.9000 ext.110 or visit DanceAffiliates.org. Post-show talkbacks with the companies are held at the conclusion of Friday evening performances throughout the season.

JAZZ

One of the best places in the city to hear jazz, the Annenberg Center once again features a stellar array of jazz performances. Sophisticated complexity contrasts with refined simplicity when Brad Mehldau, one of today's most adventurous jazz pianists, teams up with prodigious tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman (**October 14, 2011**). The two first performed together in Redman's acclaimed quartet during the '90s. Since that time, both Grammy® Award nominated musicians have reached international and critical acclaim, while forging their own distinctive voices as modern jazz icons.

Jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi** has electrified audiences and critics on both hemispheres with a creative energy that defies the conventional parameters of jazz. Heralded as one of the brightest new lights on today's piano jazz landscape, she has at just 26 years of age performed with jazz greats including Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke and released five albums. Audiences will not want to miss this "forceful presence on any stage" (*New York Times*), when she makes her Annenberg Center debut (**November 12, 2011**).

The second son of John and Alice Coltrane, **Ravi Coltrane** has made a name for himself as a critically acclaimed and Grammy®-nominated tenor and soprano saxophonist, bandleader and

composer. He has played alongside a who's who of jazz, including his father's accompanists in the 1960s—Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner and Pharoah Sanders – as well as Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, John McLaughlin, Branford Marsalis, and many others. Coltrane will be joined on stage by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet, a dynamic band whose members include pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Drew Gress and drummer E.J. Strickland (**January 14, 2012**).

The youngest son of New Orleans's first family of jazz, **Jason Marsalis** has been leading his vibes quartet for three years now, not only performing his new compositions, but also using the group to help expose audiences to classic pieces and music by new composers that he finds sorely underperformed. Their combined musical feats, with both the old standards and new gems, connect the bandstand with the audience in a way the *Chicago Tribune* describes as “deeply satisfying.” The second half of the program features another performer who is a descendant of famous musical lineage. **Simone**, daughter of famed vocalist Nina Simone, is a highly-praised live performer in her own right whose impressive resume includes starring roles on Broadway in such acclaimed musicals as *Rent* and *Aida*. This special double bill performance takes place on **March 17, 2012**.

Celebrate the music of Old Blue Eyes during an evening accented with richly told stories of a fascinating moment in time by one of the world's foremost jazz vocalists Kurt Elling in **Kurt Elling Swings Sinatra (April 28, 2012)**. *The Washington Post* raves, “Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling. With his soaring vocal flights, his edgy lyrics and sense of being on a musical mission, he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz.”

AFRICAN ROOTS

Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown (November 20, 2011) celebrates the lasting legacy of the “Godfather of Soul,” while exploring the deep relationship between soul, funk and modern African music. Interspersing traditional African music with Brown's extensive back catalogue, the band, featuring original James Brown band members led by Pee Wee Ellis and featuring a host of stars including Maceo Parker, Vusi Mahlasela and Cheikh Lo, will bring the house down with interpretations of classics like “I Got You (I Feel Good)” and “Say It Loud: I'm Black and Proud.”

Cultural ambassadors and advocates for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans, the internationally renowned ensemble **Spirit of Uganda** presents an exciting and uplifting program of traditional East African music, song, stories, and dance (**March 16, 2012**). Returning to the Annenberg Center for the first time since 2008, these outstanding young performers, aged 8 to 18, combine drums and other percussion instruments, stirring call-and-response vocals, vibrant and colorful traditional costumes, and incredible, high-energy dancing.

Kenge Kenge is an eight-person ensemble from Nairobi, Kenya, that specializes in *benga*, a traditional folk rhythm that dates to the 1940s. Most recognizable in the United States for their YouTube performance of the song “Obama for Change” that went viral during the 2008 Presidential election, the group makes its Annenberg Center debut with a performance featuring hand-made acoustic

instruments and a sound that is compulsively danceable and exhilarating (**May 4, 2012**). Kenge Kenge will also perform as part of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival (**May 3-5, 2012**).

IRISH ROOTS

The spirited Irish super group **Danú** returns to the Annenberg Center, this time to mingle the new and familiar, the religious and secular in **An Nollaig in Éirinn**, a glowing celebration of the festival of Christmas (**December 2, 2011**). Led by Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh's golden voice and backed by flutes, fiddle, button accordion and percussion, *An Nollaig in Éirinn* embraces centuries-old Irish music and song traditions to warm the heart, hearth and home during the holidays.

Masters of Tradition is a unique festival, held each year in the Irish coastal town of Bantry to celebrate traditional Irish music in its purest form. The festival's Artistic Director, Martin Hayes, brings this unique event to the Annenberg Center, drawing together an impressive line-up of Ireland's most accomplished musicians including Cathal Hayden on fiddle, Iarla Ó Lionnáird on vocals, Dennis Cahill and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar, Máirtín O'Connor on accordion and David Power on uilleann pipes (**April 15, 2012**).

LATIN ROOTS

Two jazz legends unite under one roof when the Annenberg Center presents a very special double bill performance by **Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet and Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band (October 28, 2011)**. One of the most versatile jazz artists on the scene today, Omar Sosa is a highly recognized composer, arranger, producer, pianist, percussionist and bandleader. He fuses a wide range of world music and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Legendary trumpet player Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band have dedicated themselves to the mission of playing uncompromised Afro-Caribbean Jazz and have become one of the most respected and exciting ensembles in modern music. *The San Francisco Examiner* proclaims, "Fort Apache's music is great listening, great jazz, and great fun. They don't hardly make 'em like this any more."

Celebrate the holidays in true Latin style with the thrilling 13-piece, Grammy® award-winning salsa band **Spanish Harlem Orchestra (December 3, 2011)**. Performing a unique repertoire of salsa music inspired by its 20th century roots, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra – named for a little slice of New York City that gave rise to jazz great Tito Puente – revives salsa rhythms and melodies using an incredible percussion section, unbelievable horns and powerful singers. Using both original compositions and arrangements of salsa classics, world-renowned pianist, arranger, producer and bandleader Oscar Hernández will put the group's signature Latin flair on traditional classics in this family-friendly event.

Nine-time Grammy® Award winner **Eddie Palmieri** has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a groundbreaking pianist, composer/arranger, and bandleader of celebrated Salsa and Latin jazz orchestras, as well as smaller ensembles. The Annenberg Center honors the charismatic power

and bold innovative drive of the Latin jazz legend in a special one-night-only 75th Birthday Celebration performance (**February 4, 2012**). A true powerhouse of brilliance, known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions, Palmieri has shown that time is infinite with respect to his repertoire as he continues to thrill audiences throughout the world with his legendary style.

ASIAN ROOTS

Indian classical dancer **Shantala Shivalingappa (November 5, 2011)** makes her Annenberg Center debut in ***Shiva Ganga***, an evening-length work exploring the balance between the energies of the Hindu god Shiva and the goddess Ganga. One of the world's preeminent interpreters of Kuchipudi, a 2,000-year-old classical Indian dance style, Shivalingappa has captivated audiences worldwide with the vibrant, precise storytelling embodied in her performances and has been praised as "divinely gifted" and "intoxicating" by the *New York Times*. Shivalingappa will be accompanied on stage by four master musicians who will perform on Nattuvangam (cymbals), Mridangam (percussion), flute and chant. This performance is co-presented by Sruti, the India Music and Dance Society of Philadelphia.

World-renowned tabla (North Indian concert drum) musician **Zakir Hussain** has brought the tabla to the mainstream through his brilliant and exciting collaborations with international artists, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Béla Fleck and the Grateful Dead. A national treasure in his own country of India, and widely considered the chief architect in the world music movement in the West, Hussain makes his long-awaited Annenberg Center debut (**April 7, 2012**). *Masters of Percussion* is an outgrowth of Hussain's celebrated tabla duet tours with his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and has been presented in the West by Hussain since 1996. It features a changing feast of drummers and musicians from India who are both his longtime and recent collaborators.

THEATRE

The tradition of presenting world renowned theatre companies continues during the 11/12 season when Ireland's acclaimed **Gate Theatre** returns to the Annenberg Center in performances of two one-act plays by Samuel Beckett – ***Endgame*** and ***Watt (November 8-13, 2011)***. *Endgame*, considered one of Beckett's most important works alongside *Waiting for Godot*, is written in a style associated with the Theatre of the Absurd. The bizarre adventures of *Watt* (a novel written while Beckett was in hiding in France during World War II) and his struggles to make sense of the world around him is told with elegant simplicity, immense pathos and explosive humor. According to *The Guardian*, "Beckett's autobiographical novel may be seen as a study of obsessional neurosis; it also emerges, in this adaptation, as explosively funny."

The Civilians, a New York-based, investigative theatre company, turn controversy into art with their latest theatrical endeavor ***In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards (January 18-29, 2012)***. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "fresh, inventive and entertaining," and included in the "Best of 2010" theatre lists of the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* and *Time Out New York*, *In the Footprint* is a documentary-style theatre piece about Brooklyn's largest land development project in history at the

Atlantic Avenue railway yards. Pieced together through short scenes and songs and based on interviews with residents from the affected neighborhoods, the play examines the conflicts and current resolution of the Atlantic Yards case and what can be learned from this ongoing saga of politics, money, and the death and life of an American neighborhood. *In the Footprint* is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design.

BY LOCAL SERIES

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues its dedication to local Philadelphia artists during the 11/12 By Local Series. Funded in part through The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and curated by the Annenberg Center's Director of Operations & Special Artistic Projects Madison Cario, the series showcases both emerging and established Philadelphia talent. The 11/12 By Local season features an eclectic mix of dance, theatre and spoken word performances and even Chinese puppetry.

"Presenting new and established artists, the Annenberg Center's By Local Series supports local artists and elevates Philadelphia as a performing arts destination," said Cario. "Offering audiences artistic experiences that are entertaining, intellectually challenging and artistically diverse, the 11/12 By Local season once again encourages our audiences to sample more of the flavors found in the Philadelphia performing arts community."

Conceived, co-written, and starring Philadelphia's own Dr. Roberta Sloan, theatre professor at Temple University, *First Lady of Philadelphia: The Life and Times of Deborah Franklin (September 16-17, 2011)* is a one-woman show about America's "forgotten founding mother," and how Ben Franklin could not have become who he was, without her. Theatre critic Howard Shapiro of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said of Sloan's turn as Deborah Franklin, "Sloan gives us a confident, charming, spunky, and ultimately, reflective Deborah Franklin and compels us to understand a home life we don't normally associate with Ben."

Philadelphia-based puppet artist **Hua Hua Zhang** and her company **Visual Expressions** partner with Philadelphia dance company **Kun-Yang Lin** and composers **David Darling** and **Steven Halpern** in the world premiere of *Two Hands (October 14-15, 2011)*. *Two Hands* combines dance, music and various types of puppetry to explore how we deal with balance, desire, power, wonder and confusion in our own lives.

Founded in 2004 by four students at Swarthmore College, Philadelphia's **Green Chair Dance Group** choreographs dances and produces as a collective, drawing from diverse backgrounds in improvisation, linguistics, math, and a wide swath of movement techniques. Marked by a fascination with the dichotomy between the formal, virtuosic movements of classical dance and the pedestrian movements of everyday life, Green Chair's work challenges viewers to think about the way we move through the world (**February 3-4, 2012**).

Philadelphia's **First Person Arts** was founded on the belief that everyone has a story to tell and that sharing our stories connects us with each other and the world. For the first time, the Annenberg Center will host First Person's beloved annual *Grand Slam!* which puts winners of monthly StorySlams head to head as they vie for the title "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia" (**May 19, 2012**).

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The 28th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival will take place **Thursday, May 3-Saturday, May 5, 2012**. Founded in 1985 by Catherine Marshall, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival was the first of its kind in the country, aiming to provide Philadelphia area families with an easy and affordable way to experience the artistry of international performance and visual arts. Attracting large flocks of children and their families each year, the eagerly anticipated springtime tradition also helps to build the arts and culture audiences of the future.

ARTISTS & AUDIENCES CHANGING LIVES

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives, the Annenberg Center's innovative free membership program, showcases performers who were selected not only because of their unique artistry but equally important for their tireless championship of important causes that make the world a better place. Members of the **Artists & Audiences Changing Lives** program receive background materials prior to attending a performance, invitations to artist discussions to hear first-hand about their work and an opportunity to donate 10% of their ticket purchase towards the artist's cause, all at **no additional cost**. The program also provides the opportunity to network with other audience members who share the desire to help those in need. Past Artists & Audiences Changing Lives artists have included Soweto Gospel Choir, Habib Koité, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. To date, nearly 200 audience members have joined this groundbreaking program and donations have been made to local Philadelphia-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Philadundance as well as the global organization Oxfam.

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives returns during the 11/12 season and again features an incredible lineup of artists whose world-class artistic reputations are synonymous with their stature as humanitarians who use their artistic platforms to promote discussion on controversial topics. Artists featured as part of the program include jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi**, whose native country of Japan was recently devastated by earthquakes and tsunami; **Hua Hua Zhang**, who confronts the growing problem of e-waste in her home country; and **Spirit of Uganda**, who serve as ambassadors for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans and promote awareness of the country's dual crises of AIDS and civil war. For more information about the program, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org/ACL.

INSIGHTS – PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT EVENTS

The Annenberg Center offers a range of exciting and informative pre- and post-performance events that are free for all ticket-holders. Featuring discussions led by Penn faculty members, area experts and guest artists, these events are designed to illuminate the work on stage. A full schedule of

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Insights enhancement events will be made available prior to the start of the season at AnnenbergCenter.org/insights.

11/12 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribers receive a savings of up to 31% off regular ticket prices and continue to have the benefit of free exchanges on all subscription tickets during the 11/12 season. Other subscriber benefits include free ticket replacement, priority seating and special promotional offers, including parking discounts and discounts at restaurants and shops around town. Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets to any of the season's Dance Celebration or Annenberg Center Presents shows at a 10% discount. Current subscribers may renew their subscriptions through July 24, 2011 and keep the same seats. Traditional **Genre series** subscription packages are available for the **Dance Celebration, African Roots, Irish Roots, Jazz, Latin Roots and Asian Roots series**. Series subscriptions for the Dance Celebration series are available in three, five, or seven show packages.

Also available at this time is the popular **Signature Series**, designed for those who enjoy the ability to customize their own subscription and pick and choose across different genres. Signature Series subscribers can select three shows from the season and save 10% on each ticket or chose five or more shows and save 15%.

Additional subscription packages include the **Celebration Collection**, highlighting the best of the 11/12 season, the **Discovery Collection**, for those who enjoy trying new things and being challenged by the unfamiliar, and the **Bright Lights Collection**, featuring fresh takes by today's rising stars. Subscription prices range from \$51-\$278. Subscriptions can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Group sales tickets are also on sale now. Groups of 10 or more enjoy up to a 25% discount off single ticket prices. For group sales, call 215.397.6259 or email groups@ac.upenn.edu. Single tickets will go on sale in September.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experiences.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 28-year-

old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

Dance Celebration

Founded by Artistic Director Randolph F. Swartz, **Dance Celebration** is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and a nationally-recognized for its artistic excellence. For the past 29 seasons, Dance Celebration has been a collaboration between Dance Affiliates and Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dance Celebration annual series engages a broad range of world-class and emerging dance companies each season. As a major cultural asset to the city and region, the program helps enhance the quality of life of both residents and visitors. Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Throughout its illustrious history, Dance Celebration has had ancillary series including the edgy *NextMove Festival* (1987-2003), the groundbreaking *Monday Night Series* (1986-1998), and numerous special events (1987-2006). Nikolais Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pilobolus Dance

Theater and Murray Louis Dance Company launched the inaugural season at Annenberg Center in 1983, followed in subsequent years by modern dance legends Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Alvin Ailey, Bella Lewitsky and Jose Limón.

Generous support for the 11/12 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The University of Pennsylvania, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Sheraton Philadelphia is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

Significant funding for the 11/12 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by The Connelly Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

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By Local Series continues commitment to showcase the best of Philadelphia talent

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Featuring seven distinct performance series that juxtapose tradition with the cutting edge, the 11/12 season pays homage to the Annenberg Center's rich history of presenting artists from all corners of the globe, and marks the introduction of Asian and Latin Roots series. The upcoming season includes 75 performances plus the Philadelphia International Children's Festival and runs from September 16, 2011 – May 19, 2012. Subscriptions to the 11/12 season are on sale now and can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Single tickets will be on sale in September.

"This is a beacon year for the Annenberg Center and all that it has stood for and achieved over the past four decades as one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures," notes Managing Director, Dr. Michael J. Rose. "With a dedication to excellence and innovation in the performing arts, to new forms of audience engagement, and to support for a diverse and thriving cultural community, the Center proudly reaffirms its core belief in the power of the arts to transform lives. Emphasizing unity in diversity, tradition and innovation, and the integration of arts and ideas, the new season features brilliantly talented artists and thought-provoking work from across the nation and around the world to challenge and inspire new and returning audiences and connect the University with its great city."

DANCE CELEBRATION – OUT OF THIS WORLD

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, continues to bring to Philadelphia the most sought-after international contemporary touring dance companies and artists each season. The 11/12 season, titled "**Out of this World**," speaks to the universal language of dance and features seven companies from four continents in 25 performances, plus a non-subscription special event in six performances inspired by and featuring dancers from ABC's top-rated show "Dancing with the Stars."

"Dance truly is a universal language, but has many accents," said Swartz. "It is those cultural inflections that delight, entertain, and enthrall us anew. *Out of This World* will engage your senses from an international perspective. Take a trip around the world without leaving Philadelphia."

Known for theatrical invention and high-tech special effects, the Australian-based dance company **Chunky Move**, makes its Dance Celebration debut with the Philadelphia premiere of **Connected**, a work created by founding Artistic Director Gideon Obarzanek and the extraordinary sculptor Reuben Margolin (**November 17-19, 2011**). *Connected* explores the physical connection

between constantly moving dancers and kinetic design. Beginning with simple movements and hundreds of tiny pieces, the dancers construct the awe-inspiring sculpture in real performance time.

The New York Times has called her “a hurricane of unbridled imaginativeness,” some have described her work as avant-garde, while others simply refer to her as the queen of contemporary dance. Under the direction of Artistic Director Marie Chouinard, the Montreal-based **Compagnie Marie Chouinard (December 8-10, 2011)** has become a fixture on the international dance scene, recently celebrating 20 years of distinctive choreographic style and visually stunning works that explore the poetics of the body in immediate, intelligible and surprising ways. Inspired by Vaslav Nijinsky's choreography, Compagnie Marie Chouinard will perform *Le sacre du printemps (Rite of Spring)*, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)* and *24 Preludes by Chopin*.

ABC's top-rated show “Dancing with the Stars” has re-ignited interest in international ballroom dance around the globe. Dance Celebration brings the world's top ballroom dance professionals together on stage for a spectacular evening filled with color, gowns, lights and extraordinary footwork **(December 15-18, 2011)**. **Champions of the Dance** showcases 10 national and international champions, including Jonathan Roberts and Anna Trebunskaya from “Dancing with the Stars,” under the direction of top notch coach and judge Taliat Tarsinov. Tarsinov holds 20 world and European titles and has choreographed for “Dancing with the Stars” and “America's Ballroom Challenge.” All performances will include pre- and post-show lessons and demonstrations.

Canadian dance troupe **RUBBERBANDance Group (RBDG)** have made a name for itself with works that are a thrilling and seamless blend of hip hop, ballet and modern dance. Led by Artistic Director Victor Quijada, RBDG presents the Philadelphia premiere of ***Gravity of Center (January 19-21, 2012)***. In a setting outside of time, the piece explores the contradictory relationship between interdependence and the constant quest for freedom. With syncopated rhythms and physical prowess, the four dancers come together, tear apart, desire one another and jostle one another in a disconcerting fluidity of action.

Tel-Aviv-based **Inbal Pinto & Avshalom Pollak Dance Company** return with the much-anticipated Philadelphia debut of ***Oyster***, a full-length work the *Village Voice* describes as “part surreal vaudeville, part circus, and part toy store after midnight” **(February 9-11, 2012)**. Drawing its name from a collection of short stories by the eccentric filmmaker Tim Burton, this comic, touching and visually-stunning piece is comprised of a series of vignettes employing ballet, mime, modern dance, physical comedy and acrobatics and starring circus-like characters clothed in extravagant and fanciful costumes set off by white painted faces, doll-like make-up and hair standing on end.

For more than 30 years, **DanceBrazil** has thrilled audiences throughout the world by fusing Afro-Brazilian culture, live music, contemporary dance and Capoeira, the African dance/martial arts form that evolved in colonial Brazil as a means of fighting enslavement. The company returns to Philadelphia to explore the cultural, historical, and religious connections between Brazil and Africa. The work will feature the company's eight contemporary dancers and four capoeiristas, many of whom have trained

in this Brazilian martial art with Dance Brazil Artistic Director Jelon Vieira since childhood. Also on the program is the piece ***Banguela***, a mesmerizing work built on the rhythmic interludes used by capoeiristas to calm down and strategize between intense cultural rituals (**March 22-24, 2012**).

Sleek, gorgeous dancing and works by well-known figures of contemporary dance such as Crystal Pite (Vancouver), Rodrigo Pederneiras (of the Brazilian company Grupo Corpo), Mauro Bigonzetti (of the Italian company Aterballetto), Aszure Barton (New York) and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (Amsterdam) continue to make Canada's **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (April 19-21, 2012)** among the most popular contemporary companies of today. Part ballet, part modern, part street dance, and part avant garde, Ballets Jazz defies categorization with its infectious blend of hip, funky moves infused with high energy, humor and imagination. Established in 1972, the company celebrates 40 years in 2012.

For over 30 years, audiences have delighted in the visual fantasy and stunning physicality that is **MOMIX**. Celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body, Moses Pendleton's troupe of dancer-illusionists will bring new works about water and re-imagined classic pieces to Philadelphia to close the 11/12 season (**May 17-20, 2012**).

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 11/12 season offers outreach activities by all the touring companies for the local community. These programs include master classes, workshops, and residencies as part of the Artist to Artist Series as well as hour-long performances by select companies and talk back sessions after the show in the Student Discovery Series. For more information about outreach activities call 215.636.9000 ext.110 or visit DanceAffiliates.org. Post-show talkbacks with the companies are held at the conclusion of Friday evening performances throughout the season.

JAZZ

One of the best places in the city to hear jazz, the Annenberg Center once again features a stellar array of jazz performances. Sophisticated complexity contrasts with refined simplicity when Brad Mehldau, one of today's most adventurous jazz pianists, teams up with prodigious tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman (**October 14, 2011**). The two first performed together in Redman's acclaimed quartet during the '90s. Since that time, both Grammy® Award nominated musicians have reached international and critical acclaim, while forging their own distinctive voices as modern jazz icons.

Jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi** has electrified audiences and critics on both hemispheres with a creative energy that defies the conventional parameters of jazz. Heralded as one of the brightest new lights on today's piano jazz landscape, she has at just 26 years of age performed with jazz greats including Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke and released five albums. Audiences will not want to miss this "forceful presence on any stage" (*New York Times*), when she makes her Annenberg Center debut (**November 12, 2011**).

The second son of John and Alice Coltrane, **Ravi Coltrane** has made a name for himself as a critically acclaimed and Grammy®-nominated tenor and soprano saxophonist, bandleader and

composer. He has played alongside a who's who of jazz, including his father's accompanists in the 1960s—Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner and Pharoah Sanders – as well as Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, John McLaughlin, Branford Marsalis, and many others. Coltrane will be joined on stage by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet, a dynamic band whose members include pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Drew Gress and drummer E.J. Strickland (**January 14, 2012**).

The youngest son of New Orleans's first family of jazz, **Jason Marsalis** has been leading his vibes quartet for three years now, not only performing his new compositions, but also using the group to help expose audiences to classic pieces and music by new composers that he finds sorely underperformed. Their combined musical feats, with both the old standards and new gems, connect the bandstand with the audience in a way the *Chicago Tribune* describes as “deeply satisfying.” The second half of the program features another performer who is a descendant of famous musical lineage. **Simone**, daughter of famed vocalist Nina Simone, is a highly-praised live performer in her own right whose impressive resume includes starring roles on Broadway in such acclaimed musicals as *Rent* and *Aida*. This special double bill performance takes place on **March 17, 2012**.

Celebrate the music of Old Blue Eyes during an evening accented with richly told stories of a fascinating moment in time by one of the world's foremost jazz vocalists Kurt Elling in **Kurt Elling Swings Sinatra (April 28, 2012)**. *The Washington Post* raves, “Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling. With his soaring vocal flights, his edgy lyrics and sense of being on a musical mission, he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz.”

AFRICAN ROOTS

Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown (November 20, 2011) celebrates the lasting legacy of the “Godfather of Soul,” while exploring the deep relationship between soul, funk and modern African music. Interspersing traditional African music with Brown's extensive back catalogue, the band, featuring original James Brown band members led by Pee Wee Ellis and featuring a host of stars including Maceo Parker, Vusi Mahlasela and Cheikh Lo, will bring the house down with interpretations of classics like “I Got You (I Feel Good)” and “Say It Loud: I'm Black and Proud.”

Cultural ambassadors and advocates for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans, the internationally renowned ensemble **Spirit of Uganda** presents an exciting and uplifting program of traditional East African music, song, stories, and dance (**March 16, 2012**). Returning to the Annenberg Center for the first time since 2008, these outstanding young performers, aged 8 to 18, combine drums and other percussion instruments, stirring call-and-response vocals, vibrant and colorful traditional costumes, and incredible, high-energy dancing.

Kenge Kenge is an eight-person ensemble from Nairobi, Kenya, that specializes in *benga*, a traditional folk rhythm that dates to the 1940s. Most recognizable in the United States for their YouTube performance of the song “Obama for Change” that went viral during the 2008 Presidential election, the group makes its Annenberg Center debut with a performance featuring hand-made acoustic

instruments and a sound that is compulsively danceable and exhilarating (**May 4, 2012**). Kenge Kenge will also perform as part of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival (**May 3-5, 2012**).

IRISH ROOTS

The spirited Irish super group **Danú** returns to the Annenberg Center, this time to mingle the new and familiar, the religious and secular in **An Nollaig in Éirinn**, a glowing celebration of the festival of Christmas (**December 2, 2011**). Led by Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh's golden voice and backed by flutes, fiddle, button accordion and percussion, *An Nollaig in Éirinn* embraces centuries-old Irish music and song traditions to warm the heart, hearth and home during the holidays.

Masters of Tradition is a unique festival, held each year in the Irish coastal town of Bantry to celebrate traditional Irish music in its purest form. The festival's Artistic Director, Martin Hayes, brings this unique event to the Annenberg Center, drawing together an impressive line-up of Ireland's most accomplished musicians including Cathal Hayden on fiddle, Iarla Ó Lionnáird on vocals, Dennis Cahill and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar, Máirtín O'Connor on accordion and David Power on uilleann pipes (**April 15, 2012**).

LATIN ROOTS

Two jazz legends unite under one roof when the Annenberg Center presents a very special double bill performance by **Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet and Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band (October 28, 2011)**. One of the most versatile jazz artists on the scene today, Omar Sosa is a highly recognized composer, arranger, producer, pianist, percussionist and bandleader. He fuses a wide range of world music and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Legendary trumpet player Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band have dedicated themselves to the mission of playing uncompromised Afro-Caribbean Jazz and have become one of the most respected and exciting ensembles in modern music. *The San Francisco Examiner* proclaims, "Fort Apache's music is great listening, great jazz, and great fun. They don't hardly make 'em like this any more."

Celebrate the holidays in true Latin style with the thrilling 13-piece, Grammy® award-winning salsa band **Spanish Harlem Orchestra (December 3, 2011)**. Performing a unique repertoire of salsa music inspired by its 20th century roots, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra – named for a little slice of New York City that gave rise to jazz great Tito Puente – revives salsa rhythms and melodies using an incredible percussion section, unbelievable horns and powerful singers. Using both original compositions and arrangements of salsa classics, world-renowned pianist, arranger, producer and bandleader Oscar Hernández will put the group's signature Latin flair on traditional classics in this family-friendly event.

Nine-time Grammy® Award winner **Eddie Palmieri** has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a groundbreaking pianist, composer/arranger, and bandleader of celebrated Salsa and Latin jazz orchestras, as well as smaller ensembles. The Annenberg Center honors the charismatic power

and bold innovative drive of the Latin jazz legend in a special one-night-only 75th Birthday Celebration performance (**February 4, 2012**). A true powerhouse of brilliance, known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions, Palmieri has shown that time is infinite with respect to his repertoire as he continues to thrill audiences throughout the world with his legendary style.

ASIAN ROOTS

Indian classical dancer **Shantala Shivalingappa (November 5, 2011)** makes her Annenberg Center debut in ***Shiva Ganga***, an evening-length work exploring the balance between the energies of the Hindu god Shiva and the goddess Ganga. One of the world's preeminent interpreters of Kuchipudi, a 2,000-year-old classical Indian dance style, Shivalingappa has captivated audiences worldwide with the vibrant, precise storytelling embodied in her performances and has been praised as "divinely gifted" and "intoxicating" by the *New York Times*. Shivalingappa will be accompanied on stage by four master musicians who will perform on Nattuvangam (cymbals), Mridangam (percussion), flute and chant. This performance is co-presented by Sruti, the India Music and Dance Society of Philadelphia.

World-renowned tabla (North Indian concert drum) musician **Zakir Hussain** has brought the tabla to the mainstream through his brilliant and exciting collaborations with international artists, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Béla Fleck and the Grateful Dead. A national treasure in his own country of India, and widely considered the chief architect in the world music movement in the West, Hussain makes his long-awaited Annenberg Center debut (**April 7, 2012**). *Masters of Percussion* is an outgrowth of Hussain's celebrated tabla duet tours with his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and has been presented in the West by Hussain since 1996. It features a changing feast of drummers and musicians from India who are both his longtime and recent collaborators.

THEATRE

The tradition of presenting world renowned theatre companies continues during the 11/12 season when Ireland's acclaimed **Gate Theatre** returns to the Annenberg Center in performances of two one-act plays by Samuel Beckett – ***Endgame*** and ***Watt (November 8-13, 2011)***. *Endgame*, considered one of Beckett's most important works alongside *Waiting for Godot*, is written in a style associated with the Theatre of the Absurd. The bizarre adventures of *Watt* (a novel written while Beckett was in hiding in France during World War II) and his struggles to make sense of the world around him is told with elegant simplicity, immense pathos and explosive humor. According to *The Guardian*, "Beckett's autobiographical novel may be seen as a study of obsessional neurosis; it also emerges, in this adaptation, as explosively funny."

The Civilians, a New York-based, investigative theatre company, turn controversy into art with their latest theatrical endeavor ***In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards (January 18-29, 2012)***. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "fresh, inventive and entertaining," and included in the "Best of 2010" theatre lists of the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* and *Time Out New York*, *In the Footprint* is a documentary-style theatre piece about Brooklyn's largest land development project in history at the

Atlantic Avenue railway yards. Pieced together through short scenes and songs and based on interviews with residents from the affected neighborhoods, the play examines the conflicts and current resolution of the Atlantic Yards case and what can be learned from this ongoing saga of politics, money, and the death and life of an American neighborhood. *In the Footprint* is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design.

BY LOCAL SERIES

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues its dedication to local Philadelphia artists during the 11/12 By Local Series. Funded in part through The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and curated by the Annenberg Center's Director of Operations & Special Artistic Projects Madison Cario, the series showcases both emerging and established Philadelphia talent. The 11/12 By Local season features an eclectic mix of dance, theatre and spoken word performances and even Chinese puppetry.

"Presenting new and established artists, the Annenberg Center's By Local Series supports local artists and elevates Philadelphia as a performing arts destination," said Cario. "Offering audiences artistic experiences that are entertaining, intellectually challenging and artistically diverse, the 11/12 By Local season once again encourages our audiences to sample more of the flavors found in the Philadelphia performing arts community."

Conceived, co-written, and starring Philadelphia's own Dr. Roberta Sloan, theatre professor at Temple University, *First Lady of Philadelphia: The Life and Times of Deborah Franklin* (**September 16-17, 2011**) is a one-woman show about America's "forgotten founding mother," and how Ben Franklin could not have become who he was, without her. Theatre critic Howard Shapiro of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said of Sloan's turn as Deborah Franklin, "Sloan gives us a confident, charming, spunky, and ultimately, reflective Deborah Franklin and compels us to understand a home life we don't normally associate with Ben."

Philadelphia-based puppet artist **Hua Hua Zhang** and her company **Visual Expressions** partner with Philadelphia dance company **Kun-Yang Lin** and composers **David Darling** and **Steven Halpern** in the world premiere of *Two Hands* (**October 14-15, 2011**). *Two Hands* combines dance, music and various types of puppetry to explore how we deal with balance, desire, power, wonder and confusion in our own lives.

Founded in 2004 by four students at Swarthmore College, Philadelphia's **Green Chair Dance Group** choreographs dances and produces as a collective, drawing from diverse backgrounds in improvisation, linguistics, math, and a wide swath of movement techniques. Marked by a fascination with the dichotomy between the formal, virtuosic movements of classical dance and the pedestrian movements of everyday life, Green Chair's work challenges viewers to think about the way we move through the world (**February 3-4, 2012**).

Philadelphia's **First Person Arts** was founded on the belief that everyone has a story to tell and that sharing our stories connects us with each other and the world. For the first time, the Annenberg Center will host First Person's beloved annual *Grand Slam!* which puts winners of monthly StorySlams head to head as they vie for the title "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia" (**May 19, 2012**).

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The 28th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival will take place **Thursday, May 3-Saturday, May 5, 2012**. Founded in 1985 by Catherine Marshall, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival was the first of its kind in the country, aiming to provide Philadelphia area families with an easy and affordable way to experience the artistry of international performance and visual arts. Attracting large flocks of children and their families each year, the eagerly anticipated springtime tradition also helps to build the arts and culture audiences of the future.

ARTISTS & AUDIENCES CHANGING LIVES

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives, the Annenberg Center's innovative free membership program, showcases performers who were selected not only because of their unique artistry but equally important for their tireless championship of important causes that make the world a better place. Members of the **Artists & Audiences Changing Lives** program receive background materials prior to attending a performance, invitations to artist discussions to hear first-hand about their work and an opportunity to donate 10% of their ticket purchase towards the artist's cause, all at **no additional cost**. The program also provides the opportunity to network with other audience members who share the desire to help those in need. Past Artists & Audiences Changing Lives artists have included Soweto Gospel Choir, Habib Koité, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. To date, nearly 200 audience members have joined this groundbreaking program and donations have been made to local Philadelphia-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Philadundance as well as the global organization Oxfam.

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives returns during the 11/12 season and again features an incredible lineup of artists whose world-class artistic reputations are synonymous with their stature as humanitarians who use their artistic platforms to promote discussion on controversial topics. Artists featured as part of the program include jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi**, whose native country of Japan was recently devastated by earthquakes and tsunami; **Hua Hua Zhang**, who confronts the growing problem of e-waste in her home country; and **Spirit of Uganda**, who serve as ambassadors for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans and promote awareness of the country's dual crises of AIDS and civil war. For more information about the program, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org/ACL.

INSIGHTS – PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT EVENTS

The Annenberg Center offers a range of exciting and informative pre- and post-performance events that are free for all ticket-holders. Featuring discussions led by Penn faculty members, area experts and guest artists, these events are designed to illuminate the work on stage. A full schedule of

-more-

Insights enhancement events will be made available prior to the start of the season at AnnenbergCenter.org/insights.

11/12 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribers receive a savings of up to 31% off regular ticket prices and continue to have the benefit of free exchanges on all subscription tickets during the 11/12 season. Other subscriber benefits include free ticket replacement, priority seating and special promotional offers, including parking discounts and discounts at restaurants and shops around town. Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets to any of the season's Dance Celebration or Annenberg Center Presents shows at a 10% discount. Current subscribers may renew their subscriptions through July 24, 2011 and keep the same seats. Traditional **Genre series** subscription packages are available for the **Dance Celebration, African Roots, Irish Roots, Jazz, Latin Roots and Asian Roots series**. Series subscriptions for the Dance Celebration series are available in three, five, or seven show packages.

Also available at this time is the popular **Signature Series**, designed for those who enjoy the ability to customize their own subscription and pick and choose across different genres. Signature Series subscribers can select three shows from the season and save 10% on each ticket or chose five or more shows and save 15%.

Additional subscription packages include the **Celebration Collection**, highlighting the best of the 11/12 season, the **Discovery Collection**, for those who enjoy trying new things and being challenged by the unfamiliar, and the **Bright Lights Collection**, featuring fresh takes by today's rising stars. Subscription prices range from \$51-\$278. Subscriptions can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Group sales tickets are also on sale now. Groups of 10 or more enjoy up to a 25% discount off single ticket prices. For group sales, call 215.397.6259 or email groups@ac.upenn.edu. Single tickets will go on sale in September.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experiences.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 28-year-

old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

Dance Celebration

Founded by Artistic Director Randolph F. Swartz, **Dance Celebration** is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and a nationally-recognized for its artistic excellence. For the past 29 seasons, Dance Celebration has been a collaboration between Dance Affiliates and Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dance Celebration annual series engages a broad range of world-class and emerging dance companies each season. As a major cultural asset to the city and region, the program helps enhance the quality of life of both residents and visitors. Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Throughout its illustrious history, Dance Celebration has had ancillary series including the edgy *NextMove Festival* (1987-2003), the groundbreaking *Monday Night Series* (1986-1998), and numerous special events (1987-2006). Nikolais Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pilobolus Dance

Theater and Murray Louis Dance Company launched the inaugural season at Annenberg Center in 1983, followed in subsequent years by modern dance legends Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Alvin Ailey, Bella Lewitsky and Jose Limón.

Generous support for the 11/12 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The University of Pennsylvania, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Sheraton Philadelphia is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

Significant funding for the 11/12 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by The Connelly Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

For additional press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

Nicole Cook, Director of Marketing & Communications
phone: 215.898.6706; email: cookn@ac.upenn.edu

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For Immediate Release

MAY 5, 2011

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts celebrates 40 years during 11/12 season

Highlights include:

Introduction of Latin and Asian Roots series with performances by Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band, Shantala Shivalingappa and Zakir Hussain

Dance Celebration season, co-presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, takes audiences on a journey around the world with companies from Canada, the United States, Brazil, Israel and Australia

New works by MOMIX, Chunky Move, RUBBERBANDance and DanceBrazil;
Special non-subscription event Champions of the Dance, featuring dancers from ABC's "Dancing with the Stars"

Saxophonist Joshua Redman and pianist Brad Mehldau perform together to headline Jazz Series

Jazz pianist Hiromi, Ravi Coltrane, Jason Marsalis, Simone and Kurt Elling also perform as part of Jazz Series

African Roots Series features *Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown*, the call-and-response vocals of Spirit of Uganda and Kenya's Kenge Kenge

Irish group Danú performs special Irish Christmas Celebration – *An Nollaig in Éirinn*

Ireland's acclaimed Gate Theatre Company performs two seminal works by Samuel Beckett – *Endgame* and *Watt*

The Civilians turn controversy into art with *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards*

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Known for theatrical invention and high-tech special effects, the Australian-based dance company **Chunky Move**, makes its Dance Celebration debut with the Philadelphia premiere of **Connected**, a work created by founding Artistic Director Gideon Obarzanek and the extraordinary sculptor Reuben Margolin (**November 17-19, 2011**). *Connected* explores the physical connection

between constantly moving dancers and kinetic design. Beginning with simple movements and hundreds of tiny pieces, the dancers construct the awe-inspiring sculpture in real performance time.

The New York Times has called her “a hurricane of unbridled imaginativeness,” some have described her work as avant-garde, while others simply refer to her as the queen of contemporary dance. Under the direction of Artistic Director Marie Chouinard, the Montreal-based **Compagnie Marie Chouinard (December 8-10, 2011)** has become a fixture on the international dance scene, recently celebrating 20 years of distinctive choreographic style and visually stunning works that explore the poetics of the body in immediate, intelligible and surprising ways. Inspired by Vaslav Nijinsky's choreography, Compagnie Marie Chouinard will perform *Le sacre du printemps (Rite of Spring)*, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)* and *24 Preludes by Chopin*.

ABC's top-rated show “Dancing with the Stars” has re-ignited interest in international ballroom dance around the globe. Dance Celebration brings the world's top ballroom dance professionals together on stage for a spectacular evening filled with color, gowns, lights and extraordinary footwork **(December 15-18, 2011)**. **Champions of the Dance** showcases 10 national and international champions, including Jonathan Roberts and Anna Trebunskaya from “Dancing with the Stars,” under the direction of top notch coach and judge Taliat Tarsinov. Tarsinov holds 20 world and European titles and has choreographed for “Dancing with the Stars” and “America's Ballroom Challenge.” All performances will include pre- and post-show lessons and demonstrations.

Canadian dance troupe **RUBBERBANDance Group (RBDG)** have made a name for itself with works that are a thrilling and seamless blend of hip hop, ballet and modern dance. Led by Artistic Director Victor Quijada, RBDG presents the Philadelphia premiere of ***Gravity of Center (January 19-21, 2012)***. In a setting outside of time, the piece explores the contradictory relationship between interdependence and the constant quest for freedom. With syncopated rhythms and physical prowess, the four dancers come together, tear apart, desire one another and jostle one another in a disconcerting fluidity of action.

Tel-Aviv-based **Inbal Pinto & Avshalom Pollak Dance Company** return with the much-anticipated Philadelphia debut of ***Oyster***, a full-length work the *Village Voice* describes as “part surreal vaudeville, part circus, and part toy store after midnight” **(February 9-11, 2012)**. Drawing its name from a collection of short stories by the eccentric filmmaker Tim Burton, this comic, touching and visually-stunning piece is comprised of a series of vignettes employing ballet, mime, modern dance, physical comedy and acrobatics and starring circus-like characters clothed in extravagant and fanciful costumes set off by white painted faces, doll-like make-up and hair standing on end.

For more than 30 years, **DanceBrazil** has thrilled audiences throughout the world by fusing Afro-Brazilian culture, live music, contemporary dance and Capoeira, the African dance/martial arts form that evolved in colonial Brazil as a means of fighting enslavement. The company returns to Philadelphia to explore the cultural, historical, and religious connections between Brazil and Africa. The work will feature the company's eight contemporary dancers and four capoeiristas, many of whom have trained

in this Brazilian martial art with Dance Brazil Artistic Director Jelon Vieira since childhood. Also on the program is the piece **Banguela**, a mesmerizing work built on the rhythmic interludes used by capoeiristas to calm down and strategize between intense cultural rituals (**March 22-24, 2012**).

Sleek, gorgeous dancing and works by well-known figures of contemporary dance such as Crystal Pite (Vancouver), Rodrigo Pederneiras (of the Brazilian company Grupo Corpo), Mauro Bigonzetti (of the Italian company Aterballetto), Aszure Barton (New York) and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (Amsterdam) continue to make Canada's **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (April 19-21, 2012)** among the most popular contemporary companies of today. Part ballet, part modern, part street dance, and part avant garde, Ballets Jazz defies categorization with its infectious blend of hip, funky moves infused with high energy, humor and imagination. Established in 1972, the company celebrates 40 years in 2012.

For over 30 years, audiences have delighted in the visual fantasy and stunning physicality that is **MOMIX**. Celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body, Moses Pendleton's troupe of dancer-illusionists will bring new works about water and re-imagined classic pieces to Philadelphia to close the 11/12 season (**May 17-20, 2012**).

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 11/12 season offers outreach activities by all the touring companies for the local community. These programs include master classes, workshops, and residencies as part of the Artist to Artist Series as well as hour-long performances by select companies and talk back sessions after the show in the Student Discovery Series. For more information about outreach activities call 215.636.9000 ext.110 or visit DanceAffiliates.org. Post-show talkbacks with the companies are held at the conclusion of Friday evening performances throughout the season.

JAZZ

One of the best places in the city to hear jazz, the Annenberg Center once again features a stellar array of jazz performances. Sophisticated complexity contrasts with refined simplicity when Brad Mehldau, one of today's most adventurous jazz pianists, teams up with prodigious tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman (**October 14, 2011**). The two first performed together in Redman's acclaimed quartet during the '90s. Since that time, both Grammy® Award nominated musicians have reached international and critical acclaim, while forging their own distinctive voices as modern jazz icons.

Jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi** has electrified audiences and critics on both hemispheres with a creative energy that defies the conventional parameters of jazz. Heralded as one of the brightest new lights on today's piano jazz landscape, she has at just 26 years of age performed with jazz greats including Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke and released five albums. Audiences will not want to miss this "forceful presence on any stage" (*New York Times*), when she makes her Annenberg Center debut (**November 12, 2011**).

The second son of John and Alice Coltrane, **Ravi Coltrane** has made a name for himself as a critically acclaimed and Grammy®-nominated tenor and soprano saxophonist, bandleader and

composer. He has played alongside a who's who of jazz, including his father's accompanists in the 1960s—Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner and Pharoah Sanders – as well as Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, John McLaughlin, Branford Marsalis, and many others. Coltrane will be joined on stage by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet, a dynamic band whose members include pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Drew Gress and drummer E.J. Strickland (**January 14, 2012**).

The youngest son of New Orleans's first family of jazz, **Jason Marsalis** has been leading his vibes quartet for three years now, not only performing his new compositions, but also using the group to help expose audiences to classic pieces and music by new composers that he finds sorely underperformed. Their combined musical feats, with both the old standards and new gems, connect the bandstand with the audience in a way the *Chicago Tribune* describes as “deeply satisfying.” The second half of the program features another performer who is a descendant of famous musical lineage. **Simone**, daughter of famed vocalist Nina Simone, is a highly-praised live performer in her own right whose impressive resume includes starring roles on Broadway in such acclaimed musicals as *Rent* and *Aida*. This special double bill performance takes place on **March 17, 2012**.

Celebrate the music of Old Blue Eyes during an evening accented with richly told stories of a fascinating moment in time by one of the world's foremost jazz vocalists Kurt Elling in **Kurt Elling Swings Sinatra (April 28, 2012)**. *The Washington Post* raves, “Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling. With his soaring vocal flights, his edgy lyrics and sense of being on a musical mission, he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz.”

AFRICAN ROOTS

Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown (November 20, 2011) celebrates the lasting legacy of the “Godfather of Soul,” while exploring the deep relationship between soul, funk and modern African music. Interspersing traditional African music with Brown's extensive back catalogue, the band, featuring original James Brown band members led by Pee Wee Ellis and featuring a host of stars including Maceo Parker, Vusi Mahlasela and Cheikh Lo, will bring the house down with interpretations of classics like “I Got You (I Feel Good)” and “Say It Loud: I'm Black and Proud.”

Cultural ambassadors and advocates for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans, the internationally renowned ensemble **Spirit of Uganda** presents an exciting and uplifting program of traditional East African music, song, stories, and dance (**March 16, 2012**). Returning to the Annenberg Center for the first time since 2008, these outstanding young performers, aged 8 to 18, combine drums and other percussion instruments, stirring call-and-response vocals, vibrant and colorful traditional costumes, and incredible, high-energy dancing.

Kenge Kenge is an eight-person ensemble from Nairobi, Kenya, that specializes in *benga*, a traditional folk rhythm that dates to the 1940s. Most recognizable in the United States for their YouTube performance of the song “Obama for Change” that went viral during the 2008 Presidential election, the group makes its Annenberg Center debut with a performance featuring hand-made acoustic

instruments and a sound that is compulsively danceable and exhilarating (**May 4, 2012**). Kenge Kenge will also perform as part of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival (**May 3-5, 2012**).

IRISH ROOTS

The spirited Irish super group **Danú** returns to the Annenberg Center, this time to mingle the new and familiar, the religious and secular in **An Nollaig in Éirinn**, a glowing celebration of the festival of Christmas (**December 2, 2011**). Led by Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh's golden voice and backed by flutes, fiddle, button accordion and percussion, *An Nollaig in Éirinn* embraces centuries-old Irish music and song traditions to warm the heart, hearth and home during the holidays.

Masters of Tradition is a unique festival, held each year in the Irish coastal town of Bantry to celebrate traditional Irish music in its purest form. The festival's Artistic Director, Martin Hayes, brings this unique event to the Annenberg Center, drawing together an impressive line-up of Ireland's most accomplished musicians including Cathal Hayden on fiddle, Iarla Ó Lionnáird on vocals, Dennis Cahill and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar, Máirtín O'Connor on accordion and David Power on uilleann pipes (**April 15, 2012**).

LATIN ROOTS

Two jazz legends unite under one roof when the Annenberg Center presents a very special double bill performance by **Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet and Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band (October 28, 2011)**. One of the most versatile jazz artists on the scene today, Omar Sosa is a highly recognized composer, arranger, producer, pianist, percussionist and bandleader. He fuses a wide range of world music and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Legendary trumpet player Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band have dedicated themselves to the mission of playing uncompromised Afro-Caribbean Jazz and have become one of the most respected and exciting ensembles in modern music. *The San Francisco Examiner* proclaims, "Fort Apache's music is great listening, great jazz, and great fun. They don't hardly make 'em like this any more."

Celebrate the holidays in true Latin style with the thrilling 13-piece, Grammy® award-winning salsa band **Spanish Harlem Orchestra (December 3, 2011)**. Performing a unique repertoire of salsa music inspired by its 20th century roots, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra – named for a little slice of New York City that gave rise to jazz great Tito Puente – revives salsa rhythms and melodies using an incredible percussion section, unbelievable horns and powerful singers. Using both original compositions and arrangements of salsa classics, world-renowned pianist, arranger, producer and bandleader Oscar Hernández will put the group's signature Latin flair on traditional classics in this family-friendly event.

Nine-time Grammy® Award winner **Eddie Palmieri** has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a groundbreaking pianist, composer/arranger, and bandleader of celebrated Salsa and Latin jazz orchestras, as well as smaller ensembles. The Annenberg Center honors the charismatic power

and bold innovative drive of the Latin jazz legend in a special one-night-only 75th Birthday Celebration performance (**February 4, 2012**). A true powerhouse of brilliance, known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions, Palmieri has shown that time is infinite with respect to his repertoire as he continues to thrill audiences throughout the world with his legendary style.

ASIAN ROOTS

Indian classical dancer **Shantala Shivalingappa (November 5, 2011)** makes her Annenberg Center debut in ***Shiva Ganga***, an evening-length work exploring the balance between the energies of the Hindu god Shiva and the goddess Ganga. One of the world's preeminent interpreters of Kuchipudi, a 2,000-year-old classical Indian dance style, Shivalingappa has captivated audiences worldwide with the vibrant, precise storytelling embodied in her performances and has been praised as "divinely gifted" and "intoxicating" by the *New York Times*. Shivalingappa will be accompanied on stage by four master musicians who will perform on Nattuvangam (cymbals), Mridangam (percussion), flute and chant. This performance is co-presented by Sruti, the India Music and Dance Society of Philadelphia.

World-renowned tabla (North Indian concert drum) musician **Zakir Hussain** has brought the tabla to the mainstream through his brilliant and exciting collaborations with international artists, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Béla Fleck and the Grateful Dead. A national treasure in his own country of India, and widely considered the chief architect in the world music movement in the West, Hussain makes his long-awaited Annenberg Center debut (**April 7, 2012**). *Masters of Percussion* is an outgrowth of Hussain's celebrated tabla duet tours with his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and has been presented in the West by Hussain since 1996. It features a changing feast of drummers and musicians from India who are both his longtime and recent collaborators.

THEATRE

The tradition of presenting world renowned theatre companies continues during the 11/12 season when Ireland's acclaimed **Gate Theatre** returns to the Annenberg Center in performances of two one-act plays by Samuel Beckett – ***Endgame*** and ***Watt (November 8-13, 2011)***. *Endgame*, considered one of Beckett's most important works alongside *Waiting for Godot*, is written in a style associated with the Theatre of the Absurd. The bizarre adventures of *Watt* (a novel written while Beckett was in hiding in France during World War II) and his struggles to make sense of the world around him is told with elegant simplicity, immense pathos and explosive humor. According to *The Guardian*, "Beckett's autobiographical novel may be seen as a study of obsessional neurosis; it also emerges, in this adaptation, as explosively funny."

The Civilians, a New York-based, investigative theatre company, turn controversy into art with their latest theatrical endeavor ***In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards (January 18-29, 2012)***. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "fresh, inventive and entertaining," and included in the "Best of 2010" theatre lists of the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* and *Time Out New York*, *In the Footprint* is a documentary-style theatre piece about Brooklyn's largest land development project in history at the

Atlantic Avenue railway yards. Pieced together through short scenes and songs and based on interviews with residents from the affected neighborhoods, the play examines the conflicts and current resolution of the Atlantic Yards case and what can be learned from this ongoing saga of politics, money, and the death and life of an American neighborhood. *In the Footprint* is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design.

BY LOCAL SERIES

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues its dedication to local Philadelphia artists during the 11/12 By Local Series. Funded in part through The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and curated by the Annenberg Center's Director of Operations & Special Artistic Projects Madison Cario, the series showcases both emerging and established Philadelphia talent. The 11/12 By Local season features an eclectic mix of dance, theatre and spoken word performances and even Chinese puppetry.

"Presenting new and established artists, the Annenberg Center's By Local Series supports local artists and elevates Philadelphia as a performing arts destination," said Cario. "Offering audiences artistic experiences that are entertaining, intellectually challenging and artistically diverse, the 11/12 By Local season once again encourages our audiences to sample more of the flavors found in the Philadelphia performing arts community."

Conceived, co-written, and starring Philadelphia's own Dr. Roberta Sloan, theatre professor at Temple University, *First Lady of Philadelphia: The Life and Times of Deborah Franklin* (**September 16-17, 2011**) is a one-woman show about America's "forgotten founding mother," and how Ben Franklin could not have become who he was, without her. Theatre critic Howard Shapiro of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said of Sloan's turn as Deborah Franklin, "Sloan gives us a confident, charming, spunky, and ultimately, reflective Deborah Franklin and compels us to understand a home life we don't normally associate with Ben."

Philadelphia-based puppet artist **Hua Hua Zhang** and her company **Visual Expressions** partner with Philadelphia dance company **Kun-Yang Lin** and composers **David Darling** and **Steven Halpern** in the world premiere of *Two Hands* (**October 14-15, 2011**). *Two Hands* combines dance, music and various types of puppetry to explore how we deal with balance, desire, power, wonder and confusion in our own lives.

Founded in 2004 by four students at Swarthmore College, Philadelphia's **Green Chair Dance Group** choreographs dances and produces as a collective, drawing from diverse backgrounds in improvisation, linguistics, math, and a wide swath of movement techniques. Marked by a fascination with the dichotomy between the formal, virtuosic movements of classical dance and the pedestrian movements of everyday life, Green Chair's work challenges viewers to think about the way we move through the world (**February 3-4, 2012**).

Philadelphia's **First Person Arts** was founded on the belief that everyone has a story to tell and that sharing our stories connects us with each other and the world. For the first time, the Annenberg Center will host First Person's beloved annual *Grand Slam!* which puts winners of monthly StorySlams head to head as they vie for the title "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia" (**May 19, 2012**).

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The 28th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival will take place **Thursday, May 3-Saturday, May 5, 2012**. Founded in 1985 by Catherine Marshall, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival was the first of its kind in the country, aiming to provide Philadelphia area families with an easy and affordable way to experience the artistry of international performance and visual arts. Attracting large flocks of children and their families each year, the eagerly anticipated springtime tradition also helps to build the arts and culture audiences of the future.

ARTISTS & AUDIENCES CHANGING LIVES

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives, the Annenberg Center's innovative free membership program, showcases performers who were selected not only because of their unique artistry but equally important for their tireless championship of important causes that make the world a better place. Members of the **Artists & Audiences Changing Lives** program receive background materials prior to attending a performance, invitations to artist discussions to hear first-hand about their work and an opportunity to donate 10% of their ticket purchase towards the artist's cause, all at **no additional cost**. The program also provides the opportunity to network with other audience members who share the desire to help those in need. Past Artists & Audiences Changing Lives artists have included Soweto Gospel Choir, Habib Koité, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. To date, nearly 200 audience members have joined this groundbreaking program and donations have been made to local Philadelphia-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Philadundance as well as the global organization Oxfam.

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives returns during the 11/12 season and again features an incredible lineup of artists whose world-class artistic reputations are synonymous with their stature as humanitarians who use their artistic platforms to promote discussion on controversial topics. Artists featured as part of the program include jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi**, whose native country of Japan was recently devastated by earthquakes and tsunami; **Hua Hua Zhang**, who confronts the growing problem of e-waste in her home country; and **Spirit of Uganda**, who serve as ambassadors for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans and promote awareness of the country's dual crises of AIDS and civil war. For more information about the program, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org/ACL.

INSIGHTS – PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT EVENTS

The Annenberg Center offers a range of exciting and informative pre- and post-performance events that are free for all ticket-holders. Featuring discussions led by Penn faculty members, area experts and guest artists, these events are designed to illuminate the work on stage. A full schedule of

-more-

Insights enhancement events will be made available prior to the start of the season at AnnenbergCenter.org/insights.

11/12 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribers receive a savings of up to 31% off regular ticket prices and continue to have the benefit of free exchanges on all subscription tickets during the 11/12 season. Other subscriber benefits include free ticket replacement, priority seating and special promotional offers, including parking discounts and discounts at restaurants and shops around town. Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets to any of the season's Dance Celebration or Annenberg Center Presents shows at a 10% discount. Current subscribers may renew their subscriptions through July 24, 2011 and keep the same seats. Traditional **Genre series** subscription packages are available for the **Dance Celebration, African Roots, Irish Roots, Jazz, Latin Roots and Asian Roots series**. Series subscriptions for the Dance Celebration series are available in three, five, or seven show packages.

Also available at this time is the popular **Signature Series**, designed for those who enjoy the ability to customize their own subscription and pick and choose across different genres. Signature Series subscribers can select three shows from the season and save 10% on each ticket or chose five or more shows and save 15%.

Additional subscription packages include the **Celebration Collection**, highlighting the best of the 11/12 season, the **Discovery Collection**, for those who enjoy trying new things and being challenged by the unfamiliar, and the **Bright Lights Collection**, featuring fresh takes by today's rising stars. Subscription prices range from \$51-\$278. Subscriptions can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Group sales tickets are also on sale now. Groups of 10 or more enjoy up to a 25% discount off single ticket prices. For group sales, call 215.397.6259 or email groups@ac.upenn.edu. Single tickets will go on sale in September.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experiences.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 28-year-

old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

Dance Celebration

Founded by Artistic Director Randolph F. Swartz, **Dance Celebration** is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and a nationally-recognized for its artistic excellence. For the past 29 seasons, Dance Celebration has been a collaboration between Dance Affiliates and Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dance Celebration annual series engages a broad range of world-class and emerging dance companies each season. As a major cultural asset to the city and region, the program helps enhance the quality of life of both residents and visitors. Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Throughout its illustrious history, Dance Celebration has had ancillary series including the edgy *NextMove Festival* (1987-2003), the groundbreaking *Monday Night Series* (1986-1998), and numerous special events (1987-2006). Nikolais Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pilobolus Dance

Theater and Murray Louis Dance Company launched the inaugural season at Annenberg Center in 1983, followed in subsequent years by modern dance legends Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Alvin Ailey, Bella Lewitsky and Jose Limón.

Generous support for the 11/12 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The University of Pennsylvania, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Sheraton Philadelphia is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

Significant funding for the 11/12 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by The Connelly Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

For additional press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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For Immediate Release

MAY 5, 2011

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts celebrates 40 years during 11/12 season

Highlights include:

Introduction of Latin and Asian Roots series with performances by Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band, Shantala Shivalingappa and Zakir Hussain

Dance Celebration season, co-presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, takes audiences on a journey around the world with companies from Canada, the United States, Brazil, Israel and Australia

New works by MOMIX, Chunky Move, RUBBERBANDance and DanceBrazil;
Special non-subscription event Champions of the Dance, featuring dancers from ABC's "Dancing with the Stars"

Saxophonist Joshua Redman and pianist Brad Mehldau perform together to headline Jazz Series

Jazz pianist Hiromi, Ravi Coltrane, Jason Marsalis, Simone and Kurt Elling also perform as part of Jazz Series

African Roots Series features *Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown*, the call-and-response vocals of Spirit of Uganda and Kenya's Kenge Kenge

Irish group Danú performs special Irish Christmas Celebration – *An Nollaig in Éirinn*

Ireland's acclaimed Gate Theatre Company performs two seminal works by Samuel Beckett – *Endgame* and *Watt*

The Civilians turn controversy into art with *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards*

By Local Series continues commitment to showcase the best of Philadelphia talent

(Philadelphia, May 5, 2011) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, one of the nation's preeminent urban performing arts centers on a major university campus, celebrates 40 years of presenting world-renowned and emerging artists and companies during the 11/12 season. The home of Dance Celebration, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival, and the very stage where legendary Broadway directors Harold Prince and Joseph Papp premiered award-winning theatre productions, the Annenberg Center has brought some of the world's greatest musicians, dance troupes and theatre productions to millions of Philadelphians since opening its doors in 1971.

Featuring seven distinct performance series that juxtapose tradition with the cutting edge, the 11/12 season pays homage to the Annenberg Center's rich history of presenting artists from all corners of the globe, and marks the introduction of Asian and Latin Roots series. The upcoming season includes 75 performances plus the Philadelphia International Children's Festival and runs from September 16, 2011 – May 19, 2012. Subscriptions to the 11/12 season are on sale now and can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Single tickets will be on sale in September.

"This is a beacon year for the Annenberg Center and all that it has stood for and achieved over the past four decades as one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures," notes Managing Director, Dr. Michael J. Rose. "With a dedication to excellence and innovation in the performing arts, to new forms of audience engagement, and to support for a diverse and thriving cultural community, the Center proudly reaffirms its core belief in the power of the arts to transform lives. Emphasizing unity in diversity, tradition and innovation, and the integration of arts and ideas, the new season features brilliantly talented artists and thought-provoking work from across the nation and around the world to challenge and inspire new and returning audiences and connect the University with its great city."

DANCE CELEBRATION – OUT OF THIS WORLD

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ABC's top-rated show “Dancing with the Stars” has re-ignited interest in international ballroom dance around the globe. Dance Celebration brings the world's top ballroom dance professionals together on stage for a spectacular evening filled with color, gowns, lights and extraordinary footwork **(December 15-18, 2011)**. **Champions of the Dance** showcases 10 national and international champions, including Jonathan Roberts and Anna Trebunskaya from “Dancing with the Stars,” under the direction of top notch coach and judge Taliat Tarsinov. Tarsinov holds 20 world and European titles and has choreographed for “Dancing with the Stars” and “America's Ballroom Challenge.” All performances will include pre- and post-show lessons and demonstrations.

Canadian dance troupe **RUBBERBANDance Group (RBDG)** have made a name for itself with works that are a thrilling and seamless blend of hip hop, ballet and modern dance. Led by Artistic Director Victor Quijada, RBDG presents the Philadelphia premiere of ***Gravity of Center (January 19-21, 2012)***. In a setting outside of time, the piece explores the contradictory relationship between interdependence and the constant quest for freedom. With syncopated rhythms and physical prowess, the four dancers come together, tear apart, desire one another and jostle one another in a disconcerting fluidity of action.

Tel-Aviv-based **Inbal Pinto & Avshalom Pollak Dance Company** return with the much-anticipated Philadelphia debut of ***Oyster***, a full-length work the *Village Voice* describes as “part surreal vaudeville, part circus, and part toy store after midnight” **(February 9-11, 2012)**. Drawing its name from a collection of short stories by the eccentric filmmaker Tim Burton, this comic, touching and visually-stunning piece is comprised of a series of vignettes employing ballet, mime, modern dance, physical comedy and acrobatics and starring circus-like characters clothed in extravagant and fanciful costumes set off by white painted faces, doll-like make-up and hair standing on end.

For more than 30 years, **DanceBrazil** has thrilled audiences throughout the world by fusing Afro-Brazilian culture, live music, contemporary dance and Capoeira, the African dance/martial arts form that evolved in colonial Brazil as a means of fighting enslavement. The company returns to Philadelphia to explore the cultural, historical, and religious connections between Brazil and Africa. The work will feature the company's eight contemporary dancers and four capoeiristas, many of whom have trained

in this Brazilian martial art with Dance Brazil Artistic Director Jelon Vieira since childhood. Also on the program is the piece **Banguela**, a mesmerizing work built on the rhythmic interludes used by capoeiristas to calm down and strategize between intense cultural rituals (**March 22-24, 2012**).

Sleek, gorgeous dancing and works by well-known figures of contemporary dance such as Crystal Pite (Vancouver), Rodrigo Pederneiras (of the Brazilian company Grupo Corpo), Mauro Bigonzetti (of the Italian company Aterballetto), Aszure Barton (New York) and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (Amsterdam) continue to make Canada's **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (April 19-21, 2012)** among the most popular contemporary companies of today. Part ballet, part modern, part street dance, and part avant garde, Ballets Jazz defies categorization with its infectious blend of hip, funky moves infused with high energy, humor and imagination. Established in 1972, the company celebrates 40 years in 2012.

For over 30 years, audiences have delighted in the visual fantasy and stunning physicality that is **MOMIX**. Celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body, Moses Pendleton's troupe of dancer-illusionists will bring new works about water and re-imagined classic pieces to Philadelphia to close the 11/12 season (**May 17-20, 2012**).

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 11/12 season offers outreach activities by all the touring companies for the local community. These programs include master classes, workshops, and residencies as part of the Artist to Artist Series as well as hour-long performances by select companies and talk back sessions after the show in the Student Discovery Series. For more information about outreach activities call 215.636.9000 ext.110 or visit DanceAffiliates.org. Post-show talkbacks with the companies are held at the conclusion of Friday evening performances throughout the season.

JAZZ

One of the best places in the city to hear jazz, the Annenberg Center once again features a stellar array of jazz performances. Sophisticated complexity contrasts with refined simplicity when Brad Mehldau, one of today's most adventurous jazz pianists, teams up with prodigious tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman (**October 14, 2011**). The two first performed together in Redman's acclaimed quartet during the '90s. Since that time, both Grammy® Award nominated musicians have reached international and critical acclaim, while forging their own distinctive voices as modern jazz icons.

Jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi** has electrified audiences and critics on both hemispheres with a creative energy that defies the conventional parameters of jazz. Heralded as one of the brightest new lights on today's piano jazz landscape, she has at just 26 years of age performed with jazz greats including Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke and released five albums. Audiences will not want to miss this "forceful presence on any stage" (*New York Times*), when she makes her Annenberg Center debut (**November 12, 2011**).

The second son of John and Alice Coltrane, **Ravi Coltrane** has made a name for himself as a critically acclaimed and Grammy®-nominated tenor and soprano saxophonist, bandleader and

composer. He has played alongside a who's who of jazz, including his father's accompanists in the 1960s—Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner and Pharoah Sanders – as well as Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, John McLaughlin, Branford Marsalis, and many others. Coltrane will be joined on stage by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet, a dynamic band whose members include pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Drew Gress and drummer E.J. Strickland (**January 14, 2012**).

The youngest son of New Orleans's first family of jazz, **Jason Marsalis** has been leading his vibes quartet for three years now, not only performing his new compositions, but also using the group to help expose audiences to classic pieces and music by new composers that he finds sorely underperformed. Their combined musical feats, with both the old standards and new gems, connect the bandstand with the audience in a way the *Chicago Tribune* describes as “deeply satisfying.” The second half of the program features another performer who is a descendant of famous musical lineage. **Simone**, daughter of famed vocalist Nina Simone, is a highly-praised live performer in her own right whose impressive resume includes starring roles on Broadway in such acclaimed musicals as *Rent* and *Aida*. This special double bill performance takes place on **March 17, 2012**.

Celebrate the music of Old Blue Eyes during an evening accented with richly told stories of a fascinating moment in time by one of the world's foremost jazz vocalists Kurt Elling in **Kurt Elling Swings Sinatra (April 28, 2012)**. *The Washington Post* raves, “Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling. With his soaring vocal flights, his edgy lyrics and sense of being on a musical mission, he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz.”

AFRICAN ROOTS

Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown (November 20, 2011) celebrates the lasting legacy of the “Godfather of Soul,” while exploring the deep relationship between soul, funk and modern African music. Interspersing traditional African music with Brown's extensive back catalogue, the band, featuring original James Brown band members led by Pee Wee Ellis and featuring a host of stars including Maceo Parker, Vusi Mahlasela and Cheikh Lo, will bring the house down with interpretations of classics like “I Got You (I Feel Good)” and “Say It Loud: I'm Black and Proud.”

Cultural ambassadors and advocates for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans, the internationally renowned ensemble **Spirit of Uganda** presents an exciting and uplifting program of traditional East African music, song, stories, and dance (**March 16, 2012**). Returning to the Annenberg Center for the first time since 2008, these outstanding young performers, aged 8 to 18, combine drums and other percussion instruments, stirring call-and-response vocals, vibrant and colorful traditional costumes, and incredible, high-energy dancing.

Kenge Kenge is an eight-person ensemble from Nairobi, Kenya, that specializes in *benga*, a traditional folk rhythm that dates to the 1940s. Most recognizable in the United States for their YouTube performance of the song “Obama for Change” that went viral during the 2008 Presidential election, the group makes its Annenberg Center debut with a performance featuring hand-made acoustic

instruments and a sound that is compulsively danceable and exhilarating (**May 4, 2012**). Kenge Kenge will also perform as part of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival (**May 3-5, 2012**).

IRISH ROOTS

The spirited Irish super group **Danú** returns to the Annenberg Center, this time to mingle the new and familiar, the religious and secular in **An Nollaig in Éirinn**, a glowing celebration of the festival of Christmas (**December 2, 2011**). Led by Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh's golden voice and backed by flutes, fiddle, button accordion and percussion, *An Nollaig in Éirinn* embraces centuries-old Irish music and song traditions to warm the heart, hearth and home during the holidays.

Masters of Tradition is a unique festival, held each year in the Irish coastal town of Bantry to celebrate traditional Irish music in its purest form. The festival's Artistic Director, Martin Hayes, brings this unique event to the Annenberg Center, drawing together an impressive line-up of Ireland's most accomplished musicians including Cathal Hayden on fiddle, Iarla Ó Lionnáird on vocals, Dennis Cahill and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar, Máirtín O'Connor on accordion and David Power on uilleann pipes (**April 15, 2012**).

LATIN ROOTS

Two jazz legends unite under one roof when the Annenberg Center presents a very special double bill performance by **Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet and Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band (October 28, 2011)**. One of the most versatile jazz artists on the scene today, Omar Sosa is a highly recognized composer, arranger, producer, pianist, percussionist and bandleader. He fuses a wide range of world music and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Legendary trumpet player Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band have dedicated themselves to the mission of playing uncompromised Afro-Caribbean Jazz and have become one of the most respected and exciting ensembles in modern music. *The San Francisco Examiner* proclaims, "Fort Apache's music is great listening, great jazz, and great fun. They don't hardly make 'em like this any more."

Celebrate the holidays in true Latin style with the thrilling 13-piece, Grammy® award-winning salsa band **Spanish Harlem Orchestra (December 3, 2011)**. Performing a unique repertoire of salsa music inspired by its 20th century roots, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra – named for a little slice of New York City that gave rise to jazz great Tito Puente – revives salsa rhythms and melodies using an incredible percussion section, unbelievable horns and powerful singers. Using both original compositions and arrangements of salsa classics, world-renowned pianist, arranger, producer and bandleader Oscar Hernández will put the group's signature Latin flair on traditional classics in this family-friendly event.

Nine-time Grammy® Award winner **Eddie Palmieri** has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a groundbreaking pianist, composer/arranger, and bandleader of celebrated Salsa and Latin jazz orchestras, as well as smaller ensembles. The Annenberg Center honors the charismatic power

and bold innovative drive of the Latin jazz legend in a special one-night-only 75th Birthday Celebration performance (**February 4, 2012**). A true powerhouse of brilliance, known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions, Palmieri has shown that time is infinite with respect to his repertoire as he continues to thrill audiences throughout the world with his legendary style.

ASIAN ROOTS

Indian classical dancer **Shantala Shivalingappa (November 5, 2011)** makes her Annenberg Center debut in ***Shiva Ganga***, an evening-length work exploring the balance between the energies of the Hindu god Shiva and the goddess Ganga. One of the world's preeminent interpreters of Kuchipudi, a 2,000-year-old classical Indian dance style, Shivalingappa has captivated audiences worldwide with the vibrant, precise storytelling embodied in her performances and has been praised as "divinely gifted" and "intoxicating" by the *New York Times*. Shivalingappa will be accompanied on stage by four master musicians who will perform on Nattuvangam (cymbals), Mridangam (percussion), flute and chant. This performance is co-presented by Sruti, the India Music and Dance Society of Philadelphia.

World-renowned tabla (North Indian concert drum) musician **Zakir Hussain** has brought the tabla to the mainstream through his brilliant and exciting collaborations with international artists, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Béla Fleck and the Grateful Dead. A national treasure in his own country of India, and widely considered the chief architect in the world music movement in the West, Hussain makes his long-awaited Annenberg Center debut (**April 7, 2012**). *Masters of Percussion* is an outgrowth of Hussain's celebrated tabla duet tours with his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and has been presented in the West by Hussain since 1996. It features a changing feast of drummers and musicians from India who are both his longtime and recent collaborators.

THEATRE

The tradition of presenting world renowned theatre companies continues during the 11/12 season when Ireland's acclaimed **Gate Theatre** returns to the Annenberg Center in performances of two one-act plays by Samuel Beckett – ***Endgame*** and ***Watt (November 8-13, 2011)***. *Endgame*, considered one of Beckett's most important works alongside *Waiting for Godot*, is written in a style associated with the Theatre of the Absurd. The bizarre adventures of *Watt* (a novel written while Beckett was in hiding in France during World War II) and his struggles to make sense of the world around him is told with elegant simplicity, immense pathos and explosive humor. According to *The Guardian*, "Beckett's autobiographical novel may be seen as a study of obsessional neurosis; it also emerges, in this adaptation, as explosively funny."

The Civilians, a New York-based, investigative theatre company, turn controversy into art with their latest theatrical endeavor ***In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards (January 18-29, 2012)***. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "fresh, inventive and entertaining," and included in the "Best of 2010" theatre lists of the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* and *Time Out New York*, *In the Footprint* is a documentary-style theatre piece about Brooklyn's largest land development project in history at the

Atlantic Avenue railway yards. Pieced together through short scenes and songs and based on interviews with residents from the affected neighborhoods, the play examines the conflicts and current resolution of the Atlantic Yards case and what can be learned from this ongoing saga of politics, money, and the death and life of an American neighborhood. *In the Footprint* is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design.

BY LOCAL SERIES

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues its dedication to local Philadelphia artists during the 11/12 By Local Series. Funded in part through The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and curated by the Annenberg Center's Director of Operations & Special Artistic Projects Madison Cario, the series showcases both emerging and established Philadelphia talent. The 11/12 By Local season features an eclectic mix of dance, theatre and spoken word performances and even Chinese puppetry.

"Presenting new and established artists, the Annenberg Center's By Local Series supports local artists and elevates Philadelphia as a performing arts destination," said Cario. "Offering audiences artistic experiences that are entertaining, intellectually challenging and artistically diverse, the 11/12 By Local season once again encourages our audiences to sample more of the flavors found in the Philadelphia performing arts community."

Conceived, co-written, and starring Philadelphia's own Dr. Roberta Sloan, theatre professor at Temple University, *First Lady of Philadelphia: The Life and Times of Deborah Franklin (September 16-17, 2011)* is a one-woman show about America's "forgotten founding mother," and how Ben Franklin could not have become who he was, without her. Theatre critic Howard Shapiro of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said of Sloan's turn as Deborah Franklin, "Sloan gives us a confident, charming, spunky, and ultimately, reflective Deborah Franklin and compels us to understand a home life we don't normally associate with Ben."

Philadelphia-based puppet artist **Hua Hua Zhang** and her company **Visual Expressions** partner with Philadelphia dance company **Kun-Yang Lin** and composers **David Darling** and **Steven Halpern** in the world premiere of *Two Hands (October 14-15, 2011)*. *Two Hands* combines dance, music and various types of puppetry to explore how we deal with balance, desire, power, wonder and confusion in our own lives.

Founded in 2004 by four students at Swarthmore College, Philadelphia's **Green Chair Dance Group** choreographs dances and produces as a collective, drawing from diverse backgrounds in improvisation, linguistics, math, and a wide swath of movement techniques. Marked by a fascination with the dichotomy between the formal, virtuosic movements of classical dance and the pedestrian movements of everyday life, Green Chair's work challenges viewers to think about the way we move through the world (**February 3-4, 2012**).

Philadelphia's **First Person Arts** was founded on the belief that everyone has a story to tell and that sharing our stories connects us with each other and the world. For the first time, the Annenberg Center will host First Person's beloved annual *Grand Slam!* which puts winners of monthly StorySlams head to head as they vie for the title "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia" (**May 19, 2012**).

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The 28th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival will take place **Thursday, May 3-Saturday, May 5, 2012**. Founded in 1985 by Catherine Marshall, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival was the first of its kind in the country, aiming to provide Philadelphia area families with an easy and affordable way to experience the artistry of international performance and visual arts. Attracting large flocks of children and their families each year, the eagerly anticipated springtime tradition also helps to build the arts and culture audiences of the future.

ARTISTS & AUDIENCES CHANGING LIVES

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives, the Annenberg Center's innovative free membership program, showcases performers who were selected not only because of their unique artistry but equally important for their tireless championship of important causes that make the world a better place. Members of the **Artists & Audiences Changing Lives** program receive background materials prior to attending a performance, invitations to artist discussions to hear first-hand about their work and an opportunity to donate 10% of their ticket purchase towards the artist's cause, all at **no additional cost**. The program also provides the opportunity to network with other audience members who share the desire to help those in need. Past Artists & Audiences Changing Lives artists have included Soweto Gospel Choir, Habib Koité, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. To date, nearly 200 audience members have joined this groundbreaking program and donations have been made to local Philadelphia-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Philadundance as well as the global organization Oxfam.

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives returns during the 11/12 season and again features an incredible lineup of artists whose world-class artistic reputations are synonymous with their stature as humanitarians who use their artistic platforms to promote discussion on controversial topics. Artists featured as part of the program include jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi**, whose native country of Japan was recently devastated by earthquakes and tsunami; **Hua Hua Zhang**, who confronts the growing problem of e-waste in her home country; and **Spirit of Uganda**, who serve as ambassadors for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans and promote awareness of the country's dual crises of AIDS and civil war. For more information about the program, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org/ACL.

INSIGHTS – PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT EVENTS

The Annenberg Center offers a range of exciting and informative pre- and post-performance events that are free for all ticket-holders. Featuring discussions led by Penn faculty members, area experts and guest artists, these events are designed to illuminate the work on stage. A full schedule of

-more-

Insights enhancement events will be made available prior to the start of the season at AnnenbergCenter.org/insights.

11/12 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribers receive a savings of up to 31% off regular ticket prices and continue to have the benefit of free exchanges on all subscription tickets during the 11/12 season. Other subscriber benefits include free ticket replacement, priority seating and special promotional offers, including parking discounts and discounts at restaurants and shops around town. Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets to any of the season's Dance Celebration or Annenberg Center Presents shows at a 10% discount. Current subscribers may renew their subscriptions through July 24, 2011 and keep the same seats. Traditional **Genre series** subscription packages are available for the **Dance Celebration, African Roots, Irish Roots, Jazz, Latin Roots and Asian Roots series**. Series subscriptions for the Dance Celebration series are available in three, five, or seven show packages.

Also available at this time is the popular **Signature Series**, designed for those who enjoy the ability to customize their own subscription and pick and choose across different genres. Signature Series subscribers can select three shows from the season and save 10% on each ticket or chose five or more shows and save 15%.

Additional subscription packages include the **Celebration Collection**, highlighting the best of the 11/12 season, the **Discovery Collection**, for those who enjoy trying new things and being challenged by the unfamiliar, and the **Bright Lights Collection**, featuring fresh takes by today's rising stars. Subscription prices range from \$51-\$278. Subscriptions can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Group sales tickets are also on sale now. Groups of 10 or more enjoy up to a 25% discount off single ticket prices. For group sales, call 215.397.6259 or email groups@ac.upenn.edu. Single tickets will go on sale in September.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experiences.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 28-year-

old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

Dance Celebration

Founded by Artistic Director Randolph F. Swartz, **Dance Celebration** is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and a nationally-recognized for its artistic excellence. For the past 29 seasons, Dance Celebration has been a collaboration between Dance Affiliates and Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dance Celebration annual series engages a broad range of world-class and emerging dance companies each season. As a major cultural asset to the city and region, the program helps enhance the quality of life of both residents and visitors. Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Throughout its illustrious history, Dance Celebration has had ancillary series including the edgy *NextMove Festival* (1987-2003), the groundbreaking *Monday Night Series* (1986-1998), and numerous special events (1987-2006). Nikolais Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pilobolus Dance

Theater and Murray Louis Dance Company launched the inaugural season at Annenberg Center in 1983, followed in subsequent years by modern dance legends Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Alvin Ailey, Bella Lewitsky and Jose Limón.

Generous support for the 11/12 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The University of Pennsylvania, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Sheraton Philadelphia is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

Significant funding for the 11/12 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by The Connelly Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

For additional press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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For Immediate Release

MAY 5, 2011

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts celebrates 40 years during 11/12 season

Highlights include:

Introduction of Latin and Asian Roots series with performances by Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band, Shantala Shivalingappa and Zakir Hussain

Dance Celebration season, co-presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, takes audiences on a journey around the world with companies from Canada, the United States, Brazil, Israel and Australia

New works by MOMIX, Chunky Move, RUBBERBANDance and DanceBrazil;
Special non-subscription event Champions of the Dance, featuring dancers from ABC's "Dancing with the Stars"

Saxophonist Joshua Redman and pianist Brad Mehldau perform together to headline Jazz Series

Jazz pianist Hiromi, Ravi Coltrane, Jason Marsalis, Simone and Kurt Elling also perform as part of Jazz Series

African Roots Series features *Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown*, the call-and-response vocals of Spirit of Uganda and Kenya's Kenge Kenge

Irish group Danú performs special Irish Christmas Celebration – *An Nollaig in Éirinn*

Ireland's acclaimed Gate Theatre Company performs two seminal works by Samuel Beckett – *Endgame* and *Watt*

The Civilians turn controversy into art with *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards*

By Local Series continues commitment to showcase the best of Philadelphia talent

(Philadelphia, May 5, 2011) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, one of the nation's preeminent urban performing arts centers on a major university campus, celebrates 40 years of presenting world-renowned and emerging artists and companies during the 11/12 season. The home of Dance Celebration, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival, and the very stage where legendary Broadway directors Harold Prince and Joseph Papp premiered award-winning theatre productions, the Annenberg Center has brought some of the world's greatest musicians, dance troupes and theatre productions to millions of Philadelphians since opening its doors in 1971.

Featuring seven distinct performance series that juxtapose tradition with the cutting edge, the 11/12 season pays homage to the Annenberg Center's rich history of presenting artists from all corners of the globe, and marks the introduction of Asian and Latin Roots series. The upcoming season includes 75 performances plus the Philadelphia International Children's Festival and runs from September 16, 2011 – May 19, 2012. Subscriptions to the 11/12 season are on sale now and can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Single tickets will be on sale in September.

"This is a beacon year for the Annenberg Center and all that it has stood for and achieved over the past four decades as one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures," notes Managing Director, Dr. Michael J. Rose. "With a dedication to excellence and innovation in the performing arts, to new forms of audience engagement, and to support for a diverse and thriving cultural community, the Center proudly reaffirms its core belief in the power of the arts to transform lives. Emphasizing unity in diversity, tradition and innovation, and the integration of arts and ideas, the new season features brilliantly talented artists and thought-provoking work from across the nation and around the world to challenge and inspire new and returning audiences and connect the University with its great city."

DANCE CELEBRATION – OUT OF THIS WORLD

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, continues to bring to Philadelphia the most sought-after international contemporary touring dance companies and artists each season. The 11/12 season, titled "**Out of this World**," speaks to the universal language of dance and features seven companies from four continents in 25 performances, plus a non-subscription special event in six performances inspired by and featuring dancers from ABC's top-rated show "Dancing with the Stars."

"Dance truly is a universal language, but has many accents," said Swartz. "It is those cultural inflections that delight, entertain, and enthrall us anew. *Out of This World* will engage your senses from an international perspective. Take a trip around the world without leaving Philadelphia."

Known for theatrical invention and high-tech special effects, the Australian-based dance company **Chunky Move**, makes its Dance Celebration debut with the Philadelphia premiere of **Connected**, a work created by founding Artistic Director Gideon Obarzanek and the extraordinary sculptor Reuben Margolin (**November 17-19, 2011**). *Connected* explores the physical connection

between constantly moving dancers and kinetic design. Beginning with simple movements and hundreds of tiny pieces, the dancers construct the awe-inspiring sculpture in real performance time.

The New York Times has called her “a hurricane of unbridled imaginativeness,” some have described her work as avant-garde, while others simply refer to her as the queen of contemporary dance. Under the direction of Artistic Director Marie Chouinard, the Montreal-based **Compagnie Marie Chouinard (December 8-10, 2011)** has become a fixture on the international dance scene, recently celebrating 20 years of distinctive choreographic style and visually stunning works that explore the poetics of the body in immediate, intelligible and surprising ways. Inspired by Vaslav Nijinsky's choreography, Compagnie Marie Chouinard will perform *Le sacre du printemps (Rite of Spring)*, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)* and *24 Preludes by Chopin*.

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Tel-Aviv-based **Inbal Pinto & Avshalom Pollak Dance Company** return with the much-anticipated Philadelphia debut of ***Oyster***, a full-length work the *Village Voice* describes as “part surreal vaudeville, part circus, and part toy store after midnight” **(February 9-11, 2012)**. Drawing its name from a collection of short stories by the eccentric filmmaker Tim Burton, this comic, touching and visually-stunning piece is comprised of a series of vignettes employing ballet, mime, modern dance, physical comedy and acrobatics and starring circus-like characters clothed in extravagant and fanciful costumes set off by white painted faces, doll-like make-up and hair standing on end.

For more than 30 years, **DanceBrazil** has thrilled audiences throughout the world by fusing Afro-Brazilian culture, live music, contemporary dance and Capoeira, the African dance/martial arts form that evolved in colonial Brazil as a means of fighting enslavement. The company returns to Philadelphia to explore the cultural, historical, and religious connections between Brazil and Africa. The work will feature the company's eight contemporary dancers and four capoeiristas, many of whom have trained

in this Brazilian martial art with Dance Brazil Artistic Director Jelon Vieira since childhood. Also on the program is the piece **Banguela**, a mesmerizing work built on the rhythmic interludes used by capoeiristas to calm down and strategize between intense cultural rituals (**March 22-24, 2012**).

Sleek, gorgeous dancing and works by well-known figures of contemporary dance such as Crystal Pite (Vancouver), Rodrigo Pederneiras (of the Brazilian company Grupo Corpo), Mauro Bigonzetti (of the Italian company Aterballetto), Aszure Barton (New York) and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (Amsterdam) continue to make Canada's **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (April 19-21, 2012)** among the most popular contemporary companies of today. Part ballet, part modern, part street dance, and part avant garde, Ballets Jazz defies categorization with its infectious blend of hip, funky moves infused with high energy, humor and imagination. Established in 1972, the company celebrates 40 years in 2012.

For over 30 years, audiences have delighted in the visual fantasy and stunning physicality that is **MOMIX**. Celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body, Moses Pendleton's troupe of dancer-illusionists will bring new works about water and re-imagined classic pieces to Philadelphia to close the 11/12 season (**May 17-20, 2012**).

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 11/12 season offers outreach activities by all the touring companies for the local community. These programs include master classes, workshops, and residencies as part of the Artist to Artist Series as well as hour-long performances by select companies and talk back sessions after the show in the Student Discovery Series. For more information about outreach activities call 215.636.9000 ext.110 or visit DanceAffiliates.org. Post-show talkbacks with the companies are held at the conclusion of Friday evening performances throughout the season.

JAZZ

One of the best places in the city to hear jazz, the Annenberg Center once again features a stellar array of jazz performances. Sophisticated complexity contrasts with refined simplicity when Brad Mehldau, one of today's most adventurous jazz pianists, teams up with prodigious tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman (**October 14, 2011**). The two first performed together in Redman's acclaimed quartet during the '90s. Since that time, both Grammy® Award nominated musicians have reached international and critical acclaim, while forging their own distinctive voices as modern jazz icons.

Jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi** has electrified audiences and critics on both hemispheres with a creative energy that defies the conventional parameters of jazz. Heralded as one of the brightest new lights on today's piano jazz landscape, she has at just 26 years of age performed with jazz greats including Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke and released five albums. Audiences will not want to miss this "forceful presence on any stage" (*New York Times*), when she makes her Annenberg Center debut (**November 12, 2011**).

The second son of John and Alice Coltrane, **Ravi Coltrane** has made a name for himself as a critically acclaimed and Grammy®-nominated tenor and soprano saxophonist, bandleader and

composer. He has played alongside a who's who of jazz, including his father's accompanists in the 1960s—Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner and Pharoah Sanders – as well as Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, John McLaughlin, Branford Marsalis, and many others. Coltrane will be joined on stage by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet, a dynamic band whose members include pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Drew Gress and drummer E.J. Strickland (**January 14, 2012**).

The youngest son of New Orleans's first family of jazz, **Jason Marsalis** has been leading his vibes quartet for three years now, not only performing his new compositions, but also using the group to help expose audiences to classic pieces and music by new composers that he finds sorely underperformed. Their combined musical feats, with both the old standards and new gems, connect the bandstand with the audience in a way the *Chicago Tribune* describes as “deeply satisfying.” The second half of the program features another performer who is a descendant of famous musical lineage. **Simone**, daughter of famed vocalist Nina Simone, is a highly-praised live performer in her own right whose impressive resume includes starring roles on Broadway in such acclaimed musicals as *Rent* and *Aida*. This special double bill performance takes place on **March 17, 2012**.

Celebrate the music of Old Blue Eyes during an evening accented with richly told stories of a fascinating moment in time by one of the world's foremost jazz vocalists Kurt Elling in **Kurt Elling Swings Sinatra (April 28, 2012)**. *The Washington Post* raves, “Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling. With his soaring vocal flights, his edgy lyrics and sense of being on a musical mission, he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz.”

AFRICAN ROOTS

Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown (November 20, 2011) celebrates the lasting legacy of the “Godfather of Soul,” while exploring the deep relationship between soul, funk and modern African music. Interspersing traditional African music with Brown's extensive back catalogue, the band, featuring original James Brown band members led by Pee Wee Ellis and featuring a host of stars including Maceo Parker, Vusi Mahlasela and Cheikh Lo, will bring the house down with interpretations of classics like “I Got You (I Feel Good)” and “Say It Loud: I'm Black and Proud.”

Cultural ambassadors and advocates for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans, the internationally renowned ensemble **Spirit of Uganda** presents an exciting and uplifting program of traditional East African music, song, stories, and dance (**March 16, 2012**). Returning to the Annenberg Center for the first time since 2008, these outstanding young performers, aged 8 to 18, combine drums and other percussion instruments, stirring call-and-response vocals, vibrant and colorful traditional costumes, and incredible, high-energy dancing.

Kenge Kenge is an eight-person ensemble from Nairobi, Kenya, that specializes in *benga*, a traditional folk rhythm that dates to the 1940s. Most recognizable in the United States for their YouTube performance of the song “Obama for Change” that went viral during the 2008 Presidential election, the group makes its Annenberg Center debut with a performance featuring hand-made acoustic

instruments and a sound that is compulsively danceable and exhilarating (**May 4, 2012**). Kenge Kenge will also perform as part of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival (**May 3-5, 2012**).

IRISH ROOTS

The spirited Irish super group **Danú** returns to the Annenberg Center, this time to mingle the new and familiar, the religious and secular in **An Nollaig in Éirinn**, a glowing celebration of the festival of Christmas (**December 2, 2011**). Led by Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh's golden voice and backed by flutes, fiddle, button accordion and percussion, *An Nollaig in Éirinn* embraces centuries-old Irish music and song traditions to warm the heart, hearth and home during the holidays.

Masters of Tradition is a unique festival, held each year in the Irish coastal town of Bantry to celebrate traditional Irish music in its purest form. The festival's Artistic Director, Martin Hayes, brings this unique event to the Annenberg Center, drawing together an impressive line-up of Ireland's most accomplished musicians including Cathal Hayden on fiddle, Iarla Ó Lionnáird on vocals, Dennis Cahill and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar, Máirtín O'Connor on accordion and David Power on uilleann pipes (**April 15, 2012**).

LATIN ROOTS

Two jazz legends unite under one roof when the Annenberg Center presents a very special double bill performance by **Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet and Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band (October 28, 2011)**. One of the most versatile jazz artists on the scene today, Omar Sosa is a highly recognized composer, arranger, producer, pianist, percussionist and bandleader. He fuses a wide range of world music and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Legendary trumpet player Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band have dedicated themselves to the mission of playing uncompromised Afro-Caribbean Jazz and have become one of the most respected and exciting ensembles in modern music. *The San Francisco Examiner* proclaims, "Fort Apache's music is great listening, great jazz, and great fun. They don't hardly make 'em like this any more."

Celebrate the holidays in true Latin style with the thrilling 13-piece, Grammy® award-winning salsa band **Spanish Harlem Orchestra (December 3, 2011)**. Performing a unique repertoire of salsa music inspired by its 20th century roots, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra – named for a little slice of New York City that gave rise to jazz great Tito Puente – revives salsa rhythms and melodies using an incredible percussion section, unbelievable horns and powerful singers. Using both original compositions and arrangements of salsa classics, world-renowned pianist, arranger, producer and bandleader Oscar Hernández will put the group's signature Latin flair on traditional classics in this family-friendly event.

Nine-time Grammy® Award winner **Eddie Palmieri** has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a groundbreaking pianist, composer/arranger, and bandleader of celebrated Salsa and Latin jazz orchestras, as well as smaller ensembles. The Annenberg Center honors the charismatic power

and bold innovative drive of the Latin jazz legend in a special one-night-only 75th Birthday Celebration performance (**February 4, 2012**). A true powerhouse of brilliance, known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions, Palmieri has shown that time is infinite with respect to his repertoire as he continues to thrill audiences throughout the world with his legendary style.

ASIAN ROOTS

Indian classical dancer **Shantala Shivalingappa (November 5, 2011)** makes her Annenberg Center debut in ***Shiva Ganga***, an evening-length work exploring the balance between the energies of the Hindu god Shiva and the goddess Ganga. One of the world's preeminent interpreters of Kuchipudi, a 2,000-year-old classical Indian dance style, Shivalingappa has captivated audiences worldwide with the vibrant, precise storytelling embodied in her performances and has been praised as "divinely gifted" and "intoxicating" by the *New York Times*. Shivalingappa will be accompanied on stage by four master musicians who will perform on Nattuvangam (cymbals), Mridangam (percussion), flute and chant. This performance is co-presented by Sruti, the India Music and Dance Society of Philadelphia.

World-renowned tabla (North Indian concert drum) musician **Zakir Hussain** has brought the tabla to the mainstream through his brilliant and exciting collaborations with international artists, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Béla Fleck and the Grateful Dead. A national treasure in his own country of India, and widely considered the chief architect in the world music movement in the West, Hussain makes his long-awaited Annenberg Center debut (**April 7, 2012**). *Masters of Percussion* is an outgrowth of Hussain's celebrated tabla duet tours with his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and has been presented in the West by Hussain since 1996. It features a changing feast of drummers and musicians from India who are both his longtime and recent collaborators.

THEATRE

The tradition of presenting world renowned theatre companies continues during the 11/12 season when Ireland's acclaimed **Gate Theatre** returns to the Annenberg Center in performances of two one-act plays by Samuel Beckett – ***Endgame*** and ***Watt (November 8-13, 2011)***. *Endgame*, considered one of Beckett's most important works alongside *Waiting for Godot*, is written in a style associated with the Theatre of the Absurd. The bizarre adventures of *Watt* (a novel written while Beckett was in hiding in France during World War II) and his struggles to make sense of the world around him is told with elegant simplicity, immense pathos and explosive humor. According to *The Guardian*, "Beckett's autobiographical novel may be seen as a study of obsessional neurosis; it also emerges, in this adaptation, as explosively funny."

The Civilians, a New York-based, investigative theatre company, turn controversy into art with their latest theatrical endeavor ***In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards (January 18-29, 2012)***. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "fresh, inventive and entertaining," and included in the "Best of 2010" theatre lists of the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* and *Time Out New York*, *In the Footprint* is a documentary-style theatre piece about Brooklyn's largest land development project in history at the

Atlantic Avenue railway yards. Pieced together through short scenes and songs and based on interviews with residents from the affected neighborhoods, the play examines the conflicts and current resolution of the Atlantic Yards case and what can be learned from this ongoing saga of politics, money, and the death and life of an American neighborhood. *In the Footprint* is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design.

BY LOCAL SERIES

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues its dedication to local Philadelphia artists during the 11/12 By Local Series. Funded in part through The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and curated by the Annenberg Center's Director of Operations & Special Artistic Projects Madison Cario, the series showcases both emerging and established Philadelphia talent. The 11/12 By Local season features an eclectic mix of dance, theatre and spoken word performances and even Chinese puppetry.

"Presenting new and established artists, the Annenberg Center's By Local Series supports local artists and elevates Philadelphia as a performing arts destination," said Cario. "Offering audiences artistic experiences that are entertaining, intellectually challenging and artistically diverse, the 11/12 By Local season once again encourages our audiences to sample more of the flavors found in the Philadelphia performing arts community."

Conceived, co-written, and starring Philadelphia's own Dr. Roberta Sloan, theatre professor at Temple University, *First Lady of Philadelphia: The Life and Times of Deborah Franklin* (**September 16-17, 2011**) is a one-woman show about America's "forgotten founding mother," and how Ben Franklin could not have become who he was, without her. Theatre critic Howard Shapiro of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said of Sloan's turn as Deborah Franklin, "Sloan gives us a confident, charming, spunky, and ultimately, reflective Deborah Franklin and compels us to understand a home life we don't normally associate with Ben."

Philadelphia-based puppet artist **Hua Hua Zhang** and her company **Visual Expressions** partner with Philadelphia dance company **Kun-Yang Lin** and composers **David Darling** and **Steven Halpern** in the world premiere of *Two Hands* (**October 14-15, 2011**). *Two Hands* combines dance, music and various types of puppetry to explore how we deal with balance, desire, power, wonder and confusion in our own lives.

Founded in 2004 by four students at Swarthmore College, Philadelphia's **Green Chair Dance Group** choreographs dances and produces as a collective, drawing from diverse backgrounds in improvisation, linguistics, math, and a wide swath of movement techniques. Marked by a fascination with the dichotomy between the formal, virtuosic movements of classical dance and the pedestrian movements of everyday life, Green Chair's work challenges viewers to think about the way we move through the world (**February 3-4, 2012**).

Philadelphia's **First Person Arts** was founded on the belief that everyone has a story to tell and that sharing our stories connects us with each other and the world. For the first time, the Annenberg Center will host First Person's beloved annual *Grand Slam!* which puts winners of monthly StorySlams head to head as they vie for the title "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia" (**May 19, 2012**).

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The 28th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival will take place **Thursday, May 3-Saturday, May 5, 2012**. Founded in 1985 by Catherine Marshall, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival was the first of its kind in the country, aiming to provide Philadelphia area families with an easy and affordable way to experience the artistry of international performance and visual arts. Attracting large flocks of children and their families each year, the eagerly anticipated springtime tradition also helps to build the arts and culture audiences of the future.

ARTISTS & AUDIENCES CHANGING LIVES

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives, the Annenberg Center's innovative free membership program, showcases performers who were selected not only because of their unique artistry but equally important for their tireless championship of important causes that make the world a better place. Members of the **Artists & Audiences Changing Lives** program receive background materials prior to attending a performance, invitations to artist discussions to hear first-hand about their work and an opportunity to donate 10% of their ticket purchase towards the artist's cause, all at **no additional cost**. The program also provides the opportunity to network with other audience members who share the desire to help those in need. Past Artists & Audiences Changing Lives artists have included Soweto Gospel Choir, Habib Koité, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. To date, nearly 200 audience members have joined this groundbreaking program and donations have been made to local Philadelphia-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Philadundance as well as the global organization Oxfam.

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives returns during the 11/12 season and again features an incredible lineup of artists whose world-class artistic reputations are synonymous with their stature as humanitarians who use their artistic platforms to promote discussion on controversial topics. Artists featured as part of the program include jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi**, whose native country of Japan was recently devastated by earthquakes and tsunami; **Hua Hua Zhang**, who confronts the growing problem of e-waste in her home country; and **Spirit of Uganda**, who serve as ambassadors for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans and promote awareness of the country's dual crises of AIDS and civil war. For more information about the program, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org/ACL.

INSIGHTS – PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT EVENTS

The Annenberg Center offers a range of exciting and informative pre- and post-performance events that are free for all ticket-holders. Featuring discussions led by Penn faculty members, area experts and guest artists, these events are designed to illuminate the work on stage. A full schedule of

-more-

Insights enhancement events will be made available prior to the start of the season at AnnenbergCenter.org/insights.

11/12 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribers receive a savings of up to 31% off regular ticket prices and continue to have the benefit of free exchanges on all subscription tickets during the 11/12 season. Other subscriber benefits include free ticket replacement, priority seating and special promotional offers, including parking discounts and discounts at restaurants and shops around town. Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets to any of the season's Dance Celebration or Annenberg Center Presents shows at a 10% discount. Current subscribers may renew their subscriptions through July 24, 2011 and keep the same seats. Traditional **Genre series** subscription packages are available for the **Dance Celebration, African Roots, Irish Roots, Jazz, Latin Roots and Asian Roots series**. Series subscriptions for the Dance Celebration series are available in three, five, or seven show packages.

Also available at this time is the popular **Signature Series**, designed for those who enjoy the ability to customize their own subscription and pick and choose across different genres. Signature Series subscribers can select three shows from the season and save 10% on each ticket or chose five or more shows and save 15%.

Additional subscription packages include the **Celebration Collection**, highlighting the best of the 11/12 season, the **Discovery Collection**, for those who enjoy trying new things and being challenged by the unfamiliar, and the **Bright Lights Collection**, featuring fresh takes by today's rising stars. Subscription prices range from \$51-\$278. Subscriptions can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Group sales tickets are also on sale now. Groups of 10 or more enjoy up to a 25% discount off single ticket prices. For group sales, call 215.397.6259 or email groups@ac.upenn.edu. Single tickets will go on sale in September.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experiences.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 28-year-

old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

Dance Celebration

Founded by Artistic Director Randolph F. Swartz, **Dance Celebration** is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and a nationally-recognized for its artistic excellence. For the past 29 seasons, Dance Celebration has been a collaboration between Dance Affiliates and Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dance Celebration annual series engages a broad range of world-class and emerging dance companies each season. As a major cultural asset to the city and region, the program helps enhance the quality of life of both residents and visitors. Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Throughout its illustrious history, Dance Celebration has had ancillary series including the edgy *NextMove Festival* (1987-2003), the groundbreaking *Monday Night Series* (1986-1998), and numerous special events (1987-2006). Nikolais Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pilobolus Dance

Theater and Murray Louis Dance Company launched the inaugural season at Annenberg Center in 1983, followed in subsequent years by modern dance legends Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Alvin Ailey, Bella Lewitsky and Jose Limón.

Generous support for the 11/12 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The University of Pennsylvania, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Sheraton Philadelphia is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

Significant funding for the 11/12 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by The Connelly Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

For additional press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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For Immediate Release

MAY 5, 2011

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts celebrates 40 years during 11/12 season

Highlights include:

Introduction of Latin and Asian Roots series with performances by Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band, Shantala Shivalingappa and Zakir Hussain

Dance Celebration season, co-presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, takes audiences on a journey around the world with companies from Canada, the United States, Brazil, Israel and Australia

New works by MOMIX, Chunky Move, RUBBERBANDance and DanceBrazil;
Special non-subscription event Champions of the Dance, featuring dancers from ABC's "Dancing with the Stars"

Saxophonist Joshua Redman and pianist Brad Mehldau perform together to headline Jazz Series

Jazz pianist Hiromi, Ravi Coltrane, Jason Marsalis, Simone and Kurt Elling also perform as part of Jazz Series

African Roots Series features *Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown*, the call-and-response vocals of Spirit of Uganda and Kenya's Kenge Kenge

Irish group Danú performs special Irish Christmas Celebration – *An Nollaig in Éirinn*

Ireland's acclaimed Gate Theatre Company performs two seminal works by Samuel Beckett – *Endgame* and *Watt*

The Civilians turn controversy into art with *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards*

By Local Series continues commitment to showcase the best of Philadelphia talent

(Philadelphia, May 5, 2011) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, one of the nation's preeminent urban performing arts centers on a major university campus, celebrates 40 years of presenting world-renowned and emerging artists and companies during the 11/12 season. The home of Dance Celebration, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival, and the very stage where legendary Broadway directors Harold Prince and Joseph Papp premiered award-winning theatre productions, the Annenberg Center has brought some of the world's greatest musicians, dance troupes and theatre productions to millions of Philadelphians since opening its doors in 1971.

Featuring seven distinct performance series that juxtapose tradition with the cutting edge, the 11/12 season pays homage to the Annenberg Center's rich history of presenting artists from all corners of the globe, and marks the introduction of Asian and Latin Roots series. The upcoming season includes 75 performances plus the Philadelphia International Children's Festival and runs from September 16, 2011 – May 19, 2012. Subscriptions to the 11/12 season are on sale now and can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Single tickets will be on sale in September.

"This is a beacon year for the Annenberg Center and all that it has stood for and achieved over the past four decades as one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures," notes Managing Director, Dr. Michael J. Rose. "With a dedication to excellence and innovation in the performing arts, to new forms of audience engagement, and to support for a diverse and thriving cultural community, the Center proudly reaffirms its core belief in the power of the arts to transform lives. Emphasizing unity in diversity, tradition and innovation, and the integration of arts and ideas, the new season features brilliantly talented artists and thought-provoking work from across the nation and around the world to challenge and inspire new and returning audiences and connect the University with its great city."

DANCE CELEBRATION – OUT OF THIS WORLD

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, continues to bring to Philadelphia the most sought-after international contemporary touring dance companies and artists each season. The 11/12 season, titled "**Out of this World**," speaks to the universal language of dance and features seven companies from four continents in 25 performances, plus a non-subscription special event in six performances inspired by and featuring dancers from ABC's top-rated show "Dancing with the Stars."

"Dance truly is a universal language, but has many accents," said Swartz. "It is those cultural inflections that delight, entertain, and enthrall us anew. *Out of This World* will engage your senses from an international perspective. Take a trip around the world without leaving Philadelphia."

Known for theatrical invention and high-tech special effects, the Australian-based dance company **Chunky Move**, makes its Dance Celebration debut with the Philadelphia premiere of **Connected**, a work created by founding Artistic Director Gideon Obarzanek and the extraordinary sculptor Reuben Margolin (**November 17-19, 2011**). *Connected* explores the physical connection

between constantly moving dancers and kinetic design. Beginning with simple movements and hundreds of tiny pieces, the dancers construct the awe-inspiring sculpture in real performance time.

The New York Times has called her “a hurricane of unbridled imaginativeness,” some have described her work as avant-garde, while others simply refer to her as the queen of contemporary dance. Under the direction of Artistic Director Marie Chouinard, the Montreal-based **Compagnie Marie Chouinard (December 8-10, 2011)** has become a fixture on the international dance scene, recently celebrating 20 years of distinctive choreographic style and visually stunning works that explore the poetics of the body in immediate, intelligible and surprising ways. Inspired by Vaslav Nijinsky's choreography, Compagnie Marie Chouinard will perform *Le sacre du printemps (Rite of Spring)*, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun)* and *24 Preludes by Chopin*.

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For more than 30 years, **DanceBrazil** has thrilled audiences throughout the world by fusing Afro-Brazilian culture, live music, contemporary dance and Capoeira, the African dance/martial arts form that evolved in colonial Brazil as a means of fighting enslavement. The company returns to Philadelphia to explore the cultural, historical, and religious connections between Brazil and Africa. The work will feature the company's eight contemporary dancers and four capoeiristas, many of whom have trained

in this Brazilian martial art with Dance Brazil Artistic Director Jelon Vieira since childhood. Also on the program is the piece **Banguela**, a mesmerizing work built on the rhythmic interludes used by capoeiristas to calm down and strategize between intense cultural rituals (**March 22-24, 2012**).

Sleek, gorgeous dancing and works by well-known figures of contemporary dance such as Crystal Pite (Vancouver), Rodrigo Pederneiras (of the Brazilian company Grupo Corpo), Mauro Bigonzetti (of the Italian company Aterballetto), Aszure Barton (New York) and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (Amsterdam) continue to make Canada's **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (April 19-21, 2012)** among the most popular contemporary companies of today. Part ballet, part modern, part street dance, and part avant garde, Ballets Jazz defies categorization with its infectious blend of hip, funky moves infused with high energy, humor and imagination. Established in 1972, the company celebrates 40 years in 2012.

For over 30 years, audiences have delighted in the visual fantasy and stunning physicality that is **MOMIX**. Celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body, Moses Pendleton's troupe of dancer-illusionists will bring new works about water and re-imagined classic pieces to Philadelphia to close the 11/12 season (**May 17-20, 2012**).

In addition to performances, the Dance Celebration 11/12 season offers outreach activities by all the touring companies for the local community. These programs include master classes, workshops, and residencies as part of the Artist to Artist Series as well as hour-long performances by select companies and talk back sessions after the show in the Student Discovery Series. For more information about outreach activities call 215.636.9000 ext.110 or visit DanceAffiliates.org. Post-show talkbacks with the companies are held at the conclusion of Friday evening performances throughout the season.

JAZZ

One of the best places in the city to hear jazz, the Annenberg Center once again features a stellar array of jazz performances. Sophisticated complexity contrasts with refined simplicity when Brad Mehldau, one of today's most adventurous jazz pianists, teams up with prodigious tenor saxophonist Joshua Redman (**October 14, 2011**). The two first performed together in Redman's acclaimed quartet during the '90s. Since that time, both Grammy® Award nominated musicians have reached international and critical acclaim, while forging their own distinctive voices as modern jazz icons.

Jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi** has electrified audiences and critics on both hemispheres with a creative energy that defies the conventional parameters of jazz. Heralded as one of the brightest new lights on today's piano jazz landscape, she has at just 26 years of age performed with jazz greats including Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke and released five albums. Audiences will not want to miss this "forceful presence on any stage" (*New York Times*), when she makes her Annenberg Center debut (**November 12, 2011**).

The second son of John and Alice Coltrane, **Ravi Coltrane** has made a name for himself as a critically acclaimed and Grammy®-nominated tenor and soprano saxophonist, bandleader and

composer. He has played alongside a who's who of jazz, including his father's accompanists in the 1960s—Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner and Pharoah Sanders – as well as Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, John McLaughlin, Branford Marsalis, and many others. Coltrane will be joined on stage by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet, a dynamic band whose members include pianist Luis Perdomo, bassist Drew Gress and drummer E.J. Strickland (**January 14, 2012**).

The youngest son of New Orleans's first family of jazz, **Jason Marsalis** has been leading his vibes quartet for three years now, not only performing his new compositions, but also using the group to help expose audiences to classic pieces and music by new composers that he finds sorely underperformed. Their combined musical feats, with both the old standards and new gems, connect the bandstand with the audience in a way the *Chicago Tribune* describes as “deeply satisfying.” The second half of the program features another performer who is a descendant of famous musical lineage. **Simone**, daughter of famed vocalist Nina Simone, is a highly-praised live performer in her own right whose impressive resume includes starring roles on Broadway in such acclaimed musicals as *Rent* and *Aida*. This special double bill performance takes place on **March 17, 2012**.

Celebrate the music of Old Blue Eyes during an evening accented with richly told stories of a fascinating moment in time by one of the world's foremost jazz vocalists Kurt Elling in **Kurt Elling Swings Sinatra (April 28, 2012)**. *The Washington Post* raves, “Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling. With his soaring vocal flights, his edgy lyrics and sense of being on a musical mission, he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz.”

AFRICAN ROOTS

Still Black, Still Proud: An African Tribute to James Brown (November 20, 2011) celebrates the lasting legacy of the “Godfather of Soul,” while exploring the deep relationship between soul, funk and modern African music. Interspersing traditional African music with Brown's extensive back catalogue, the band, featuring original James Brown band members led by Pee Wee Ellis and featuring a host of stars including Maceo Parker, Vusi Mahlasela and Cheikh Lo, will bring the house down with interpretations of classics like “I Got You (I Feel Good)” and “Say It Loud: I'm Black and Proud.”

Cultural ambassadors and advocates for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans, the internationally renowned ensemble **Spirit of Uganda** presents an exciting and uplifting program of traditional East African music, song, stories, and dance (**March 16, 2012**). Returning to the Annenberg Center for the first time since 2008, these outstanding young performers, aged 8 to 18, combine drums and other percussion instruments, stirring call-and-response vocals, vibrant and colorful traditional costumes, and incredible, high-energy dancing.

Kenge Kenge is an eight-person ensemble from Nairobi, Kenya, that specializes in *benga*, a traditional folk rhythm that dates to the 1940s. Most recognizable in the United States for their YouTube performance of the song “Obama for Change” that went viral during the 2008 Presidential election, the group makes its Annenberg Center debut with a performance featuring hand-made acoustic

instruments and a sound that is compulsively danceable and exhilarating (**May 4, 2012**). Kenge Kenge will also perform as part of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival (**May 3-5, 2012**).

IRISH ROOTS

The spirited Irish super group **Danú** returns to the Annenberg Center, this time to mingle the new and familiar, the religious and secular in **An Nollaig in Éirinn**, a glowing celebration of the festival of Christmas (**December 2, 2011**). Led by Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh's golden voice and backed by flutes, fiddle, button accordion and percussion, *An Nollaig in Éirinn* embraces centuries-old Irish music and song traditions to warm the heart, hearth and home during the holidays.

Masters of Tradition is a unique festival, held each year in the Irish coastal town of Bantry to celebrate traditional Irish music in its purest form. The festival's Artistic Director, Martin Hayes, brings this unique event to the Annenberg Center, drawing together an impressive line-up of Ireland's most accomplished musicians including Cathal Hayden on fiddle, Iarla Ó Lionnáird on vocals, Dennis Cahill and Seamie O'Dowd on guitar, Máirtín O'Connor on accordion and David Power on uilleann pipes (**April 15, 2012**).

LATIN ROOTS

Two jazz legends unite under one roof when the Annenberg Center presents a very special double bill performance by **Omar Sosa Afreecanos Quartet and Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band (October 28, 2011)**. One of the most versatile jazz artists on the scene today, Omar Sosa is a highly recognized composer, arranger, producer, pianist, percussionist and bandleader. He fuses a wide range of world music and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Legendary trumpet player Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band have dedicated themselves to the mission of playing uncompromised Afro-Caribbean Jazz and have become one of the most respected and exciting ensembles in modern music. *The San Francisco Examiner* proclaims, "Fort Apache's music is great listening, great jazz, and great fun. They don't hardly make 'em like this any more."

Celebrate the holidays in true Latin style with the thrilling 13-piece, Grammy® award-winning salsa band **Spanish Harlem Orchestra (December 3, 2011)**. Performing a unique repertoire of salsa music inspired by its 20th century roots, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra – named for a little slice of New York City that gave rise to jazz great Tito Puente – revives salsa rhythms and melodies using an incredible percussion section, unbelievable horns and powerful singers. Using both original compositions and arrangements of salsa classics, world-renowned pianist, arranger, producer and bandleader Oscar Hernández will put the group's signature Latin flair on traditional classics in this family-friendly event.

Nine-time Grammy® Award winner **Eddie Palmieri** has a musical career that spans over 50 years as a groundbreaking pianist, composer/arranger, and bandleader of celebrated Salsa and Latin jazz orchestras, as well as smaller ensembles. The Annenberg Center honors the charismatic power

and bold innovative drive of the Latin jazz legend in a special one-night-only 75th Birthday Celebration performance (**February 4, 2012**). A true powerhouse of brilliance, known for his astute arranging skills and historic compositions, Palmieri has shown that time is infinite with respect to his repertoire as he continues to thrill audiences throughout the world with his legendary style.

ASIAN ROOTS

Indian classical dancer **Shantala Shivalingappa (November 5, 2011)** makes her Annenberg Center debut in ***Shiva Ganga***, an evening-length work exploring the balance between the energies of the Hindu god Shiva and the goddess Ganga. One of the world's preeminent interpreters of Kuchipudi, a 2,000-year-old classical Indian dance style, Shivalingappa has captivated audiences worldwide with the vibrant, precise storytelling embodied in her performances and has been praised as "divinely gifted" and "intoxicating" by the *New York Times*. Shivalingappa will be accompanied on stage by four master musicians who will perform on Nattuvangam (cymbals), Mridangam (percussion), flute and chant. This performance is co-presented by Sruti, the India Music and Dance Society of Philadelphia.

World-renowned tabla (North Indian concert drum) musician **Zakir Hussain** has brought the tabla to the mainstream through his brilliant and exciting collaborations with international artists, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Béla Fleck and the Grateful Dead. A national treasure in his own country of India, and widely considered the chief architect in the world music movement in the West, Hussain makes his long-awaited Annenberg Center debut (**April 7, 2012**). *Masters of Percussion* is an outgrowth of Hussain's celebrated tabla duet tours with his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and has been presented in the West by Hussain since 1996. It features a changing feast of drummers and musicians from India who are both his longtime and recent collaborators.

THEATRE

The tradition of presenting world renowned theatre companies continues during the 11/12 season when Ireland's acclaimed **Gate Theatre** returns to the Annenberg Center in performances of two one-act plays by Samuel Beckett – ***Endgame*** and ***Watt (November 8-13, 2011)***. *Endgame*, considered one of Beckett's most important works alongside *Waiting for Godot*, is written in a style associated with the Theatre of the Absurd. The bizarre adventures of *Watt* (a novel written while Beckett was in hiding in France during World War II) and his struggles to make sense of the world around him is told with elegant simplicity, immense pathos and explosive humor. According to *The Guardian*, "Beckett's autobiographical novel may be seen as a study of obsessional neurosis; it also emerges, in this adaptation, as explosively funny."

The Civilians, a New York-based, investigative theatre company, turn controversy into art with their latest theatrical endeavor ***In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards (January 18-29, 2012)***. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "fresh, inventive and entertaining," and included in the "Best of 2010" theatre lists of the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* and *Time Out New York*, *In the Footprint* is a documentary-style theatre piece about Brooklyn's largest land development project in history at the

Atlantic Avenue railway yards. Pieced together through short scenes and songs and based on interviews with residents from the affected neighborhoods, the play examines the conflicts and current resolution of the Atlantic Yards case and what can be learned from this ongoing saga of politics, money, and the death and life of an American neighborhood. *In the Footprint* is co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design.

BY LOCAL SERIES

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues its dedication to local Philadelphia artists during the 11/12 By Local Series. Funded in part through The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and curated by the Annenberg Center's Director of Operations & Special Artistic Projects Madison Cario, the series showcases both emerging and established Philadelphia talent. The 11/12 By Local season features an eclectic mix of dance, theatre and spoken word performances and even Chinese puppetry.

"Presenting new and established artists, the Annenberg Center's By Local Series supports local artists and elevates Philadelphia as a performing arts destination," said Cario. "Offering audiences artistic experiences that are entertaining, intellectually challenging and artistically diverse, the 11/12 By Local season once again encourages our audiences to sample more of the flavors found in the Philadelphia performing arts community."

Conceived, co-written, and starring Philadelphia's own Dr. Roberta Sloan, theatre professor at Temple University, *First Lady of Philadelphia: The Life and Times of Deborah Franklin (September 16-17, 2011)* is a one-woman show about America's "forgotten founding mother," and how Ben Franklin could not have become who he was, without her. Theatre critic Howard Shapiro of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said of Sloan's turn as Deborah Franklin, "Sloan gives us a confident, charming, spunky, and ultimately, reflective Deborah Franklin and compels us to understand a home life we don't normally associate with Ben."

Philadelphia-based puppet artist **Hua Hua Zhang** and her company **Visual Expressions** partner with Philadelphia dance company **Kun-Yang Lin** and composers **David Darling** and **Steven Halpern** in the world premiere of *Two Hands (October 14-15, 2011)*. *Two Hands* combines dance, music and various types of puppetry to explore how we deal with balance, desire, power, wonder and confusion in our own lives.

Founded in 2004 by four students at Swarthmore College, Philadelphia's **Green Chair Dance Group** choreographs dances and produces as a collective, drawing from diverse backgrounds in improvisation, linguistics, math, and a wide swath of movement techniques. Marked by a fascination with the dichotomy between the formal, virtuosic movements of classical dance and the pedestrian movements of everyday life, Green Chair's work challenges viewers to think about the way we move through the world (**February 3-4, 2012**).

Philadelphia's **First Person Arts** was founded on the belief that everyone has a story to tell and that sharing our stories connects us with each other and the world. For the first time, the Annenberg Center will host First Person's beloved annual *Grand Slam!* which puts winners of monthly StorySlams head to head as they vie for the title "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia" (**May 19, 2012**).

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The 28th annual Philadelphia International Children's Festival will take place **Thursday, May 3-Saturday, May 5, 2012**. Founded in 1985 by Catherine Marshall, the Philadelphia International Children's Festival was the first of its kind in the country, aiming to provide Philadelphia area families with an easy and affordable way to experience the artistry of international performance and visual arts. Attracting large flocks of children and their families each year, the eagerly anticipated springtime tradition also helps to build the arts and culture audiences of the future.

ARTISTS & AUDIENCES CHANGING LIVES

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives, the Annenberg Center's innovative free membership program, showcases performers who were selected not only because of their unique artistry but equally important for their tireless championship of important causes that make the world a better place. Members of the **Artists & Audiences Changing Lives** program receive background materials prior to attending a performance, invitations to artist discussions to hear first-hand about their work and an opportunity to donate 10% of their ticket purchase towards the artist's cause, all at **no additional cost**. The program also provides the opportunity to network with other audience members who share the desire to help those in need. Past Artists & Audiences Changing Lives artists have included Soweto Gospel Choir, Habib Koité, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. To date, nearly 200 audience members have joined this groundbreaking program and donations have been made to local Philadelphia-based organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Philadundance as well as the global organization Oxfam.

Artists & Audiences Changing Lives returns during the 11/12 season and again features an incredible lineup of artists whose world-class artistic reputations are synonymous with their stature as humanitarians who use their artistic platforms to promote discussion on controversial topics. Artists featured as part of the program include jazz pianist and composer **Hiromi**, whose native country of Japan was recently devastated by earthquakes and tsunami; **Hua Hua Zhang**, who confronts the growing problem of e-waste in her home country; and **Spirit of Uganda**, who serve as ambassadors for Uganda's 2.4 million orphans and promote awareness of the country's dual crises of AIDS and civil war. For more information about the program, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org/ACL.

INSIGHTS – PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT EVENTS

The Annenberg Center offers a range of exciting and informative pre- and post-performance events that are free for all ticket-holders. Featuring discussions led by Penn faculty members, area experts and guest artists, these events are designed to illuminate the work on stage. A full schedule of

-more-

Insights enhancement events will be made available prior to the start of the season at AnnenbergCenter.org/insights.

11/12 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribers receive a savings of up to 31% off regular ticket prices and continue to have the benefit of free exchanges on all subscription tickets during the 11/12 season. Other subscriber benefits include free ticket replacement, priority seating and special promotional offers, including parking discounts and discounts at restaurants and shops around town. Subscribers have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets to any of the season's Dance Celebration or Annenberg Center Presents shows at a 10% discount. Current subscribers may renew their subscriptions through July 24, 2011 and keep the same seats. Traditional **Genre series** subscription packages are available for the **Dance Celebration, African Roots, Irish Roots, Jazz, Latin Roots and Asian Roots series**. Series subscriptions for the Dance Celebration series are available in three, five, or seven show packages.

Also available at this time is the popular **Signature Series**, designed for those who enjoy the ability to customize their own subscription and pick and choose across different genres. Signature Series subscribers can select three shows from the season and save 10% on each ticket or chose five or more shows and save 15%.

Additional subscription packages include the **Celebration Collection**, highlighting the best of the 11/12 season, the **Discovery Collection**, for those who enjoy trying new things and being challenged by the unfamiliar, and the **Bright Lights Collection**, featuring fresh takes by today's rising stars. Subscription prices range from \$51-\$278. Subscriptions can be purchased online by visiting AnnenbergCenter.org, over the phone by calling 215.898.3900 or by visiting the Annenberg Center Box Office. Group sales tickets are also on sale now. Groups of 10 or more enjoy up to a 25% discount off single ticket prices. For group sales, call 215.397.6259 or email groups@ac.upenn.edu. Single tickets will go on sale in September.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experiences.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 28-year-

old Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. Through a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Annenberg Center also showcases its commitment to local artists each year through its By Local series.

Throughout its history, the Annenberg Center has presented innovative and critically-acclaimed theatre productions with some of the biggest stars of stage and screen including Liv Ullmann and Sam Waterston in *A Doll's House*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Glenn Close, Jessica Tandy in Beckett's *Not I*, and Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Irene Worth and Christopher Walken. University of Pennsylvania alumnus and noteworthy Broadway producer and director Harold Prince staged many of his plays at the Annenberg Center before taking them to Broadway.

Dance Celebration

Founded by Artistic Director Randolph F. Swartz, **Dance Celebration** is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and a nationally-recognized for its artistic excellence. For the past 29 seasons, Dance Celebration has been a collaboration between Dance Affiliates and Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The Dance Celebration annual series engages a broad range of world-class and emerging dance companies each season. As a major cultural asset to the city and region, the program helps enhance the quality of life of both residents and visitors. Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Throughout its illustrious history, Dance Celebration has had ancillary series including the edgy *NextMove Festival* (1987-2003), the groundbreaking *Monday Night Series* (1986-1998), and numerous special events (1987-2006). Nikolais Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pilobolus Dance

Theater and Murray Louis Dance Company launched the inaugural season at Annenberg Center in 1983, followed in subsequent years by modern dance legends Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Alvin Ailey, Bella Lewitsky and Jose Limón.

Generous support for the 11/12 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The University of Pennsylvania, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Sheraton Philadelphia is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

Significant funding for the 11/12 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by The Connelly Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

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