



Presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2012

Media Contact

Sarah Fergus
Marketing and Communications Manager
Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
215.573.8537
sfergus@ac.upenn.edu

Dance Affiliates—Community Outreach

Anne-Marie Mulgrew
Director, Education & Special Projects
215.636.9000 ext.110
annemarie@danceaffiliates.org

MOMIX concludes Dance Celebration's 29th season

(Philadelphia, April 20, 2012)—Dance Celebration presents the grand finale to its 11/12 season with the celebrated dancer-illusionist ensemble MOMIX in *reMIX*, May 17-20 at the Annenberg Center. A stunning snapshot of MOMIX's most striking images from over 30 years of work, *reMIX* is a surreal journey through the unique universe of MOMIX movement that breaks the bounds of the conventional and leaves its audiences floating "out on a dizzying high of pleasure" (*Chicago Tribune*).

This performance is part of Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center. **Performances take place at the Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut St., on Thursday, May 17 at 7:30 PM; Friday, May 18 at 8 PM; Saturday, May 19 at 2 PM & 8 PM and Sunday, May 20 at 2 PM.** Tickets are \$30-\$70 (prices are subject to change). For tickets or for more information, please visit AnnenbergCenter.org or call 215.898.3900. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.

Under the direction of founder, choreographer and director Moses Pendleton, MOMIX is known for conjuring worlds of surrealistic images and unfathomable beauty using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body. In *reMIX*, a collection of Pendleton's life work, this world-renowned company of uncannily athletic dancers presents an unpredictable, sometimes bizarre and notoriously out-of-this-world collection of figments of the MOMIX imagination that are "ideal for turning audiences on to dance" (*Los Angeles Herald Examiner*).

The program features the Philadelphia premieres of "Baths of Caracalla," an ensemble piece, set to David and Steve Gordon's music; "Table Talk," a riveting solo performed by Steven Marshall who balances, suspends and floats on a table in a series of super-charged gymnastic moves; and "If You Need Some Body," an ensemble work to Johann Sebastian Bach.

reMIX also includes excerpts from MOMIX's blockbuster full-length works. "Solar Flares," "Marigolds," "Moon Beams" and "Aqua Flora" are from MOMIX's *Botanica*, a theatrical nature extravaganza filled with vibrant imagery presented by Dance Celebration in 2010. Highlights from *Opus Cactus*, a work inspired by the giant saguaro cactus of the American Southwest include "Tuu," a powerful duet; "Pole Dance," a group work that uses large poles as an interactive set; and "Dream Catcher," conceived by Pendleton and assisted by Brian Sanders and Brian Simerson, featuring dancers scooting on stage on wheeled boards. Rounding out the program are MOMIX classics "E.C.," "Sputnik" and "Geese."

Dancers for MOMIX include Todd Burnsed, David Dillow, Jon Eden, Nicole Loizides, Steven Marshall, Anila Mazhari, Danielle Mcfall, Rebecca Rasmussen, Cara Seymour and Brian Simerson.

Local dancer Brian Sanders (founder/director of JUNK and University of the Arts dance faculty) spent 10 years touring with MOMIX. Sanders has contributed to several works that are part of the company's touring repertoire.

MOMIX is internationally acclaimed for presenting works of exceptional inventiveness and physical grandeur. In addition to stage performances world-wide, the company has frequently worked on special projects in film and television and was most recently seen in the premiere of a commercial for Target aired during the Golden Globes® award ceremony in January 2010. The troupe has also collaborated on numerous commercials and corporate partnerships with Hanes underwear, Fiat, Mercedes Benz, MAC Cosmetics and Wal-Mart, to name a few. MOMIX has made television features that have been broadcast to 55 countries (including Russia and China) and has performed on France's public television station, Antenne 2. MOMIX has also been featured on PBS's celebrated "Dance in America" series.

-more-

Artistic Director Moses Pendleton

The company's founder, artistic director and choreographer, Moses Pendleton, has worked with numerous acrobatics acts, films, television productions and dance companies world-wide. A former Guggenheim fellow, Pendleton started MOMIX following his solo performance at the closing ceremonies of the 1980 Olympic Games in Lake Placid. Prior to MOMIX, Pendleton co-founded the ground-breaking dance troupe Pilobolus Dance Theatre while a senior at Dartmouth College in 1971.

INSIGHTS

Post-show talk backs

All performances include a post-show talk back with Moses Pendleton in the lobby.

In addition to the performances, MOMIX will be conducting two outreach activities: a master class taught by a company member, Friday, May 18 at 1 PM at UARTS, 211 S. Broad Street, (advance registration is required) and a Student Discovery program on Friday, May 18 at 10:30 AM at the Annenberg Center. For more information, contact Anne-Marie Mulgrew at 215.636.9000 ext. 110.

Significant funding for the 11/12 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

State arts funding support is received through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Dance Celebration

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

The annual Dance Celebration 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 (1987-2011). 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 José Limón.

Dance Affiliates

Founded in 1979 by artistic director Randy Swartz as American Ballet Competition, the organization later changed its name to Dance Affiliates, reflecting its mission since 1983 as one of the nation's few remaining dance-only presenters. Its annual Dance Celebration program is Philadelphia's acclaimed and longest-running series of world-class contemporary dance. Having presented 200 companies in 1,500 performances, Dance Affiliates provides a wealth of opportunities for the Philadelphia-area community to interact with visiting dance artists through master classes, residencies, artistic collaborations, symposiums, film screenings, workshops, special student programs and pre- and post-performance curtain talks. Through more than 600 outreach programs, 30,000 students and aspiring dancers have been served. Visit www.danceaffiliates.org.

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 experience.

Annenberg Center 40th Anniversary Season

For the past 40 years, the Annenberg Center has dedicated itself to the advancement of a diverse and thriving cultural community through the pursuit of excellence, innovation and intellectual engagement in the realms of music, theatre and dance. To celebrate the momentous occasion, the Annenberg Center has put together one of the most expansive seasons

-more-

ever—a nod towards the colorful history of presenting the best of the best from all corners of the globe. With highly acclaimed artists from six continents, audiences can take a journey around the world without leaving their seat. From Zakir Hussain of India and Chunky Move of Australia to the Gate Theatre of Ireland to the Spirit of Uganda from Africa, audience members will see the world in a whole new way.

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

Sarah Fergus, Marketing & Communications Manager
phone: 215.573.8537; email: sfergus@ac.upenn.edu

###