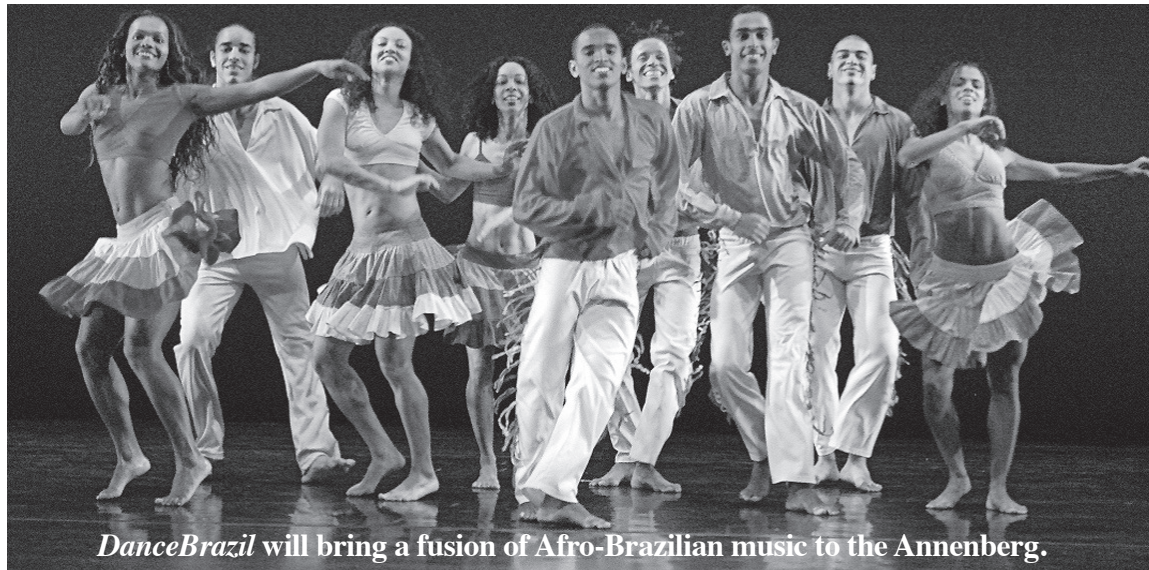


The Annenberg Center heats up as *DanceBrazil* returns with two premieres

PHILADELPHIA — An infectious, seductive and high-octane fusion of Afro-Brazilian live music, contemporary dance and martial arts forms the foundation of DanceBrazil's 35-year success. From March 22-24, this dance troupe, inspired by the cultural tapestry of Brazil will enthrall audiences with the world premiere of *Imfazwe* along with the Philadelphia premiere of *Batuke*.

This performance is part of Dance Celebration, which is presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center. Performances take place at the Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut St., on Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 PM; Friday, March 23 at 8 PM and Saturday, March 24 at 2 PM & 8 PM. Tickets are \$20-\$60. 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.

With an "unabashed display of bravado," DanceBrazil, founded and directed by choreographer Jelon Vieira, flaunts a repertory that has long straddled an ever-changing line between propulsive and fluid (The New York Times). There are the acrobatic feats and



DanceBrazil will bring a fusion of Afro-Brazilian music to the Annenberg.

the gravity-defying athleticism reflective of Capoeira, an African dance/martial arts form that evolved in colonial Brazil as a means of fighting enslavement. Then, there are the swiveling hips, the luscious walks and the agile samba steps—all to the rhythms of live Afro-Brazilian drums.

The company will perform the Philadelphia premiere of the explosive *Batuke*, named after the term used to describe the sounds and rhythms made by non-traditional instruments played during Carnival celebrations. With

live music by Daniel Santos that features the berimbau, a single-stringed instrument that forms the basis of Vieira's understanding of rhythm and music, *Batuke* is a resplendent snapshot of revelry—physically and instrumentally.

The world premiere of *Imfazwe* explores both the fighting and dance aspects of the art form of Capoeira. These dual aspects are inseparable and create an ongoing dialogue in a Capoeira roda, the circle, the actual physical space in which the art is traditionally performed. The work

will feature 12 dancers, live musicians and an original score by Brazilian-born and American-raised Patrick Soluri.

As founder and artistic director of DanceBrazil and The Capoeira Foundation, Jelon Vieira and the late Loremil Machado were the first artists to bring traditional Afro-Brazilian dance and Capoeira to the United States. In 1977, they formed The Capoeiras of Bahia, a name that

soon changed to DanceBrazil at the suggestion of the late Alvin Ailey, a company supporter and cheerleader. For 35 years, Vieira has guided the company through breathtaking performances before audiences in Europe, Asia, Brazil and the United States.

Vieira currently teaches at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He has taught Capoeira to an extensive list of dancers and non-dancers alike, including soccer great Pele and American movie stars Wesley Snipes and Eddie Murphy. He has worked with American dance companies including Dance Theater of Harlem and Alvin Ailey. In 1993, after a decade of collaboration between DanceBrazil and the Carver Cultural Community Center in San Antonio, Texas, Vieira and Carver Center Director Jo Long created Ilê Bahia de San Antonio, the House of African-Brazilian Arts. The organization established a professional level instruction and training center in the African-Brazilian performing arts, with a special emphasis placed on training at-risk, minority youth in a positive and culturally affirming activity.

CCC PARTNERING WITH UPENN, ARIT TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM

CAMDEN — Five visiting scholars will offer a global outlook on the religious and cultural traditions of Islam when Camden County College's Center for Civic Leadership and Responsibility presents a free public lecture series this semester. The Center is offering the series, which is funded by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers through a grant from the Carnegie Corp. of New York, in partnership with the Penn Museum's International Classroom program, the Penn Middle East Center and the American Research Institute in Turkey.

"Islam: Tradition and Diversity" will examine various aspects of the religion and its culture, including the concepts and practices essential to Islam today. Other issues to be explored include the global forces impacting Muslim communi-

ties, the assumptions and truths about Muslim women, the diverse cultures and communities of Islam in America and Islam in Turkey.

Each lecture will be given at 7 p.m. in Civic Hall. This venue is located in the Connector Building on CCC's Blackwood Campus at College Drive and Peter Cheeseman Road in Gloucester Township.

Scheduled are:

- March 1: "The Essentials of Islam, Past and Present" with Jamal Elias of the University of Pennsylvania.

- March 8: "Islam in Modern Asia: Cosmopolitan, Not Western; Modern, Not Secular" with Haroon Moghul of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding.

- March 22: "Islam and Women: Ten Things Worth

Knowing" with Carolyn Baugh of Bryn Mawr College.

- April 5: "Our Andalusia: Islam in the American Mix" with Ann Norton of the University of Pennsylvania.

- April 12: "The Adventure of Political Islam in Turkey: A Nonviolent Takeover?" with Mehmet Darakcioglu of the University of Pennsylvania's Middle East Studies Center.

This series is recommended for educators as it will provide help in promoting understanding of the Islamic culture for students of any age. New Jersey professional development credit is available.

For more information or to attend, contact the Center for Civic Leadership and Responsibility by telephone at (856) 227-7200, ext. 4333, or via e-mail at CCLRregistrations@camdencc.edu.

FRIENDS of LAUREL HILL CEMETERY present

Titanic: The 100th Anniversary

Tours, Lecture, Cocktails and Dinner

PHILADELPHIA Considered one of the worst maritime disasters in history, the sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic marks its 100th anniversary in 2012. This once-in-a-lifetime centennial program will commence with a walking tour of the gravesites of the ship's passengers memorialized at Laurel Hill Cemetery, where their unique stories of survival and death will be told. The tour will continue at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, where six additional Titanic passengers rest. Following the walking tours, a slide-supported presentation inside West Laurel Hill's historic Conservatory will share some of the little known and newly discovered facts relating to this historic event of April 14, 1912. The evening will culminate with a catered, buffet-style dinner featuring courses that replicate the final meal served aboard Titanic on the evening of her demise, and accompanied by music, wine and dessert.

This program will be presented by Professor Emeritus and Resident Folklorist at Widener University, Dr. J. Joseph Edgette. It will take place on Saturday, April 21 at 3:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132, and continuing at West Laurel Hill, 215 Belmont Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. Participants will be responsible for their own transport (2 miles) between locations. Directions will be provided. Free parking is located in both cemeteries.

The full program, including tours, presentation and dinner, will run approximately 6 hours. The cost is \$75/person and \$68/students + seniors. Advance registration is required. Tickets can be purchased by calling (215) 228-8200 or online at www.thelaurelhillemetery.org.