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Hi-res images available at AnnenbergCenter.org/press or by request.

**Classical Indian dancer Rama Vaidyanathan
to kick off the Annenberg Center's
12/13 Asian Roots series**

(Philadelphia, October 4, 2012)—The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts kicks off its acclaimed Asian Roots series with one of the world's leading classical dancers straight from India, Rama Vaidyanathan. Vaidyanathan is one of the principal interpreters in the ancient Indian dance form of Bharata Natyam, which combines complex footwork, abstract movements and elaborate mime. This performance will take place on **Saturday, November 3 at 8 PM**. Tickets are \$20-\$45 (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 "fire power and ebullience, athleticism and rhythmic prowess" (*The Hindu*), Vaidyanathan's energetic performance combines exhilarating choreography with the accompanying sounds of live musicians. Led by conductor ("nattuvangam") Kameswaran Sivakumar, the performance will feature stunning background vocals, the soothing sounds of the violin and percussion from the Indian mridangam.

Renowned as the "thinking dancer," Vaidyanathan's distinct performance style blends together tradition and her own unique take on the art of dance. With her extensive experience, Vaidyanathan has mastered the classical dance form of Bharata Natyam, which

has been performed in the temples and courts of southern India for centuries. As *The New York Times* boasts of Vaidyanathan, "The slap of her bare foot on the ground always made a full impact...Her execution was so clear that the fascinations of the Bharatanatyam genre itself were objectively evident."

A seasoned veteran with "divinity in the flick of a toe" (*The Financial Times*), Vaidyanathan brings 20 years of expert dance experience to the Annenberg stage. Vaidyanathan's past performances include an engagement at The World Sanskrit Conference, special charity performances for The Cancer Society and The Red Cross Society as well as an appearance at the opening of the Indian Film Festival in Madrid, Spain in May 2006.

INSIGHTS

Audience members can stay after for a post-show chat with Rama Vaidyanathan hosted by Raji Venkatesan of Sruti, the India Music and Dance Society of Philadelphia.

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.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding, 30-year 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 29-year Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States.

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