



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

Media Contact

Rebecca Goering
Associate Director of Marketing & Communications
rgoering@ac.upenn.edu
215.898.6683

Dance Affiliates- Community Outreach

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

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

BodyVox performs the Philadelphia premiere of *The Cutting Room*, a full-length dance theatre romp about the many genres of film

(Philadelphia, October 28, 2013)—Portland's BodyVox, known for its imaginative fusion of dance, film and theatre, returns as part of the 13/14 Dance Celebration season with its full-length production, *The Cutting Room*, a work filled with explosive imagery, athleticism and humor. BodyVox is the striking brainchild of MOMIX and Pilobolus alums and award-winning dancer/choreographers Ashley Roland and Jamey Hampton. Presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, performances will take place at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts at 3680 Walnut Street on **Thursday, December 12 at 7:30 PM, Friday, December 13 at 8 PM and Saturday, December 14 at 2 PM and 8 PM.** Tickets are \$20-\$55 (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.



An odyssey through film genres, *The Cutting Room* consists of eight dances entitled Historic Fiction, Documentary, Screen Kiss, Romantic Comedy, Bollywood, Chase, Sci-Fi and Americana. The opening scene features a business suit-clad Jamey Hampton sitting opposite from Jonathan Krebs, sporting sunglasses and a track suit. Krebs jump starts the action by rolling a film canister across the table, setting off a wild film chase through Portland. Set for 12 dancers, the choreography incorporates a wide-ranging vocabulary that blends classical, contemporary, old court dances, Bollywood and American hoedown.

While Historical Fiction showcases old court dances and Bollywood features a quasi-Indian floor show, Sci-Fi transforms the dancers into semi-anemones that morph and multiply against striking blue and red projections. Ashley Roland's inventive costumes enhance the mood and pace of the production. Films by Mitchell Rose and Jamey Hampton mix with the dance sequences to integrate the concept and mediums.

The sound score, like the choreography, crosses many genres and time periods. It features Miles Davis, Benny Goodman, William Goodrum, James Newton Howard, Vivek Maddala, Pietro Mascagni, W.A. Mozart, Thomas Newman, Giacomo Puccini, Ralph Stanley and Johann Strauss mixed with sound bytes from classic films.

Marty Hugley from *The Oregonian* notes, with *The Cutting Room*, "The Company makes not just film about dance but dance about film. And the result is so fun you might find it addictive."

Known for its breathtaking cocktail of physicality, compelling imagery and imaginative whimsy, BodyVox has wowed audiences with its multi-media dance performances for the past 15 years. Since its inception in 1997, Artistic Directors Hampton and Roland have created eight award-winning films, 18 original productions and three operas, featuring nearly 200 dances.

Combining their talents as choreographers and filmmakers, Hampton and Roland created an impressive repertoire that prompted *Dance Magazine* to exclaim "with BodyVox you get wit, whimsy, and well-mannered emotion in pieces performed by a dozen dancers with solid technical chops." The company's Philadelphia performances also feature former local dancer Heather Jackson who trained at the Rock School in Philadelphia.

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Based in Portland, Oregon, **BodyVox**'s movement is informed by years of cross-training, imbued with a curiosity and fascination with the endless possibilities of the human body in motion. Artistic Directors Hampton and Roland are distinguished artists on the world stage, formed by 30 years working as creators and performers with innovative dance companies MOMIX, ISO Dance and Pilobolus Dance Theatre. BodyVox builds upon this tradition of excellence with a unique voice that is equally influenced by its Northwest roots and world view. Created in 1997 to fulfill a commission from Portland Opera, the company has since created numerous original works and toured across the U.S. to critical acclaim.

Adding to its full-evening shows and repertory pieces, BodyVox's films, created with director Mitchell Rose, have won numerous awards in national and international festivals. "Modern Daydreams," composed of "Treadmill Softly," "Islands in the Sky," "Unleashed" and "Deere John," won the prestigious American Choreography Award for Outstanding Achievement in Short Film in 2002.

INSIGHTS

Post-show talk back

December 13

Ticket holders can stay after the performance for an interactive conversation with the company.

In addition, BodyVox will conduct two outreach activities – a Student Discovery performance for schools on Friday, December 13 at 10:30 AM and a free master class for the dance community on Friday, December 13 at 1 PM. For information on outreach activities, contact annemarie@danceaffiliates.org or 215.636.9000 ext. 110.

Funding for the 13/14 Dance Celebration season is provided by the Connelly 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 is nationally-recognized in its field. The 13/14 program marks Dance Celebration's 31st season. Dance Celebration is 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 enhances 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 presented ancillary series including the edgy NextMove Festival (1999-2003), 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 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.

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 30-year Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States.

Generous support for the 13/14 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The National Endowment for the Arts and The University of Pennsylvania as well as many individual donors. The Sheraton University City is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

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

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