



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

For Immediate Release

April 3, 2014

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

MOMIX returns May 8-11 with the Philadelphia premiere of *Alchemia*, a new full-length work

(Philadelphia, April 3, 2014) — Known for creating breathtaking works of splendor and exceptional beauty, MOMIX's artistic director Moses Pendleton brings his latest full-length multimedia spectacle, *Alchemia* to the Annenberg Center. Pendleton's choreography was most recently seen around the world in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony work, *Doves of Peace*. This extraordinary troupe of dancer-illusionists uses props, light, shadow, projections, sound and constructed costumes, to enchant audiences worldwide. Presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, performances will take place on **Thursday, May 8 at 7:30 PM, Friday, May 9 at 8 PM and Saturday, May 10 at 2 PM and 8 PM and Sunday, May 11 at 3 PM**. Tickets are \$20-\$80 (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.



Alchemia will give audiences the chance to experience Pendleton's "signature brand of theatrical magic" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). Like the MOMIX piece *Botanica*, which had its Philadelphia debut on the Dance Celebration Series in 2010, *Alchemia* offers a fantastical exploration of the elements of nature. Inspired by the four classic elements of earth, water, air, and fire, *Alchemia* explores nature and its sexuality as well as transformation and fantasy through dazzling visual effects and pristine choreography.

Set to wide-ranging soundtrack, *Alchemia* is a two-part work that features a cast of 10 stellar dancers. Entitled "Quest for Fire Water", the first part has the stage engulfed in red flames with dancers clad in red costumes, including humorous oversized bustles, hats and bodices. In the second part, "Led into Gold," dancers take to the air using a deconstructing sculpture and aerial apparatuses combined with ropes, mirrors, extensive lighting and projections. According to Pendleton, "Alchemy by definition, can be anything. MOMIX is alchemy."

In addition to stage performances world-wide, **MOMIX** has worked in film and television, appearing in a national commercial for Hanes underwear and a Target ad that premiered during the airing of the 67th Annual Golden Globe Awards. With performances on PBS's *Dance in America* series, France's Antenne II, and Italian RAI television, the company's repertory has been broadcast to 55 countries. Commissioned by corporations such as Fiat and Mercedes Benz, MOMIX performed at Fiat's month long 100th Anniversary Celebration in Torino, Italy, and Mercedes Benz's International Auto Show in Frankfurt, Germany. With the support of the Scottsdale Cultural Council and Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Pendleton created *Bat Habits* to celebrate the opening of the San Francisco Giants' new spring training park in Scottsdale, Arizona. This work served as the forerunner of *Baseball* and joins such acclaimed original productions as *Lunar Sea*, *Opus Cactus*, *Orbit*, *Passion* and *Botanica*. With nothing more than light and shadow, props, the human body, and an epic imagination, MOMIX has astonished audiences on five continents for more than 30 years.

INSIGHTS

Audiences are invited to stay after each performance for a talk back with MOMIX Artistic Director, Moses Pendleton.

-more-

MOMIX will also conduct two outreach activities — a Student Discovery performance for schools on Friday, May 9 at 10:30 AM and a complimentary master class for the dance community on Friday, May 9 at 2 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 Limon.

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:

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

#