

NEWS

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Revised: April 23, 2019 to reflect date change for
Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza

The Annenberg Center and NextMove Dance Announce 2019-20 Season

*Special retrospective season celebrates legacy of dance
in Philadelphia while looking to its future*

Ephrat Asherie Dance, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, MOMIX, Paul Taylor Dance Company, PHILADANCO, Pilobolus, Stars of American Ballet, Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza, and Trinity Irish Dance Company will perform at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Pennsylvania

(Philadelphia – March 1, 2019) — The **Annenberg Center** and **NextMove Dance** announce the 2019-20 dance season at the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** at the University of Pennsylvania. The special retrospective season will celebrate the tradition of bringing the best in dance to Philadelphia while also looking to the future of the art form. Highlights include companies that have frequently graced the Annenberg Center stage, including **MOMIX**, **Pilobolus**, and **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal**, and a celebration of the life's work of dance icon **Paul Taylor** in a tribute to some of his greatest masterpieces. **PHILADANCO** comes home for the holidays with an original Annenberg Center commission, a local favorite for generations; while two troupes, **Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza** and **Trinity Irish Dance Company**, return to Philadelphia after long absences. And, the future of dance in all its forms will be showcased in the debuts of **Stars of American Ballet** and **Ephrat Asherie Dance**.

The 2019-20 Season

Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, *Dance Me* / Music of Leonard Cohen, September 26-28, 2019

Dance Me pays homage to famed poet/singer/songwriter, Leonard Cohen. Using a soundtrack of Cohen's most well-known songs, choreographers Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Andonis Foniadakis and Ihsan Rustem created a multidisciplinary work that evokes the cycles of human existence as described in Cohen's deeply insightful music and poems. ***Dance Me*** paints a multifaceted portrait of the man who gave us "Hallelujah" and "So Long, Marianne," his words finding profound, new meaning through dance.

Stars of American Ballet, October 18-19, 2019

Stars of American Ballet brings together today's most remarkable ballet talents in "an unapologetic showcase of virtuosity." (*The Boston Globe*) Led by Daniel Ulbricht, "one of the best male ballet dancers in New York," (*Dance Magazine*) and featuring a cast of principal and soloist dancers from the New York City Ballet and other renowned companies, this collective makes its Philadelphia debut with masterpieces by Balanchine, Wheeldon, Frohlich and more in a captivating ode to ballet.

PHILADANCO, *Xmas Philes*, December 12-14, 2019

An Annenberg Center original commission and local dance treasure return home. Choreographed by Daniel Ezralow, *Xmas Philes* pairs PHILADANCO's colorful tapestry of movement with popular Christmas music in what has become an eagerly anticipated December tradition. This expanded *Xmas Philes* celebrates the holidays with humor, Christmas classics and the best in contemporary dance.

Paul Taylor Dance Company, January 24-25, 2020

The Paul Taylor Dance Company returns to Philadelphia to celebrate the extraordinary legacy of dance icon Paul Taylor. In honor of Taylor's wide-ranging and expressive repertoire, "one of the most exciting, innovative, and delightful dance companies in the entire world" (*The New York Times*) will perform a program of his masterpieces, including *Syzygy*, *Sunset* and *Piazzolla Caldera*.

Ephrat Asherie Dance, Odeon, February 7-8, 2020

Ephrat Asherie brings her street and social dance company to Philadelphia for the first time to perform *Odeon*, a high-octane, full-length work set to the music of composer Ernesto Nazareth, played live. A recent *Bessie and Dance Magazine* award winner, Asherie layers breaking, hip hop, house, and vogue to a rich score melding classical Romantic music with Afro-Brazilian rhythms. This thrilling dance and music remix is truly "paving the way for something new." (*The New York Times*)

Trinity Irish Dance Company, March 27-28, 2020

Trinity Irish Dance Company is the birthplace of progressive Irish dance, displaying "award-winning exactness with an experimental edge" (*The Chicago Tribune*). With hard-driving percussive power, lightning-fast agility, and aerial grace, this troupe fuses Ireland's vibrant tradition with ever-evolving, American innovation.

Pilobolus, Come to Your Senses, April 16-18, 2020

Pilobolus mixes classic favorites and new works into an exploration of the senses and the connections between the human body and the natural world. "Acrobatics are liquefied into poetry" (*The New York Times*) in the wildly creative and amusing world of Pilobolus, as bodies merge and part, roll and fly, creating seemingly impossible imagery that sparks absolute wonder.

Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza, May 29-30, 2020 (Note date change from original release.)

Mexico's leading contemporary troupe returns to Philadelphia for the first time in 14 years. Known for "imagery that stays with the viewer long after the movement fades," (*The Boston Globe*) Pérez-Salas' intense theatricality and surrealist choreography is embraced around the world. Superb technique and artistic passion abound in the U.S. premiere of *Religare*, which, from atop a dirt-filled dancefloor, examines the power of dance as a ritual between the body and spirit, as well as *Anabiosis* and *3. Fourteen Sixteen*, both vivid feasts for the senses.

MOMIX, Alice, June 11-13, 2020

In the U.S. premiere of *Alice*, the wildly imaginative Moses Pendleton creates a uniquely MOMIX, fantastical Wonderland where the human body has no limits and nothing is what it appears. The vivid imagery, vibrant costumes and awe-inspiring movement take audiences down the rabbit hole in this "curiouser and curiouser" universe.

Subscriptions are on sale now at AnnenbergCenter.org or 215.898.3900. Single tickets go on sale in mid-July.

[Photos of all artists in the 2019-20 Dance Season are available here.](#)

The rest of The Annenberg Center's 2019-20 season will be announced in April.

About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting Penn and the greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance, and film, serving an annual audience of almost 50,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts

curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center's multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity, and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences, and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference, and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support, and customer service. The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary, and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community, and greater Philadelphia region. Visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org.

About NextMove Dance

NextMove Dance Artistic Director Randy Swartz created the first annual dance series in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theatre in 1970. In 1983, he launched the Dance Celebration series at the Annenberg Center for a 32-year run and initiated a new annual series at the Prince Theater in October 2015. Dance Affiliates, renamed NextMove Dance, is recognized as one of the nation's finest dance presenters. Known internationally for award-winning presentations for almost four decades, NextMove Dance provides a wealth of opportunities for the Delaware Valley community to interact with the artists through talk-backs, master classes, artistic collaborations, workshops, children's programs and much more. Visit www.nextmovedance.org.

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CONTACTS:

Katherine Blodgett, for the Annenberg Center

Email: katherineblodgett@gmail.com

Phone: 215.431.1230

Alexander Freeman, Director of Marketing and Ticketing

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Email: freemana@ac.upenn.edu

Phone: 215.898.9081