



ANNENBERG  
CENTER  
— PRESENTS —

NEWS

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## **The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Pennsylvania Announces its 2019-20 Season**

***#GLASSFEST, a three-week celebration of preeminent composer Philip Glass, features the world premiere of The White Lama: The Improbable Legacy of Theos Bernard, as well as Music in Twelve Parts and Knee Plays***

***Brownstein Residency for Artistic Innovation honors Grammy® and Latin Grammy® award-winning vocalist Lila Downs, continuing The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City series with a focus on Philadelphia's Mexican American residents***

***The Annenberg Center hosts the first local residency of Philadelphia's Grammy® Award-winning new music choir, The Crossing, directed by Donald Nally***

***Season opens September 13 with Tina Satter/ Half Straddle's production of Is This A Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription, a co-presentation with FringeArts as part of the 2019 Fringe Festival***

***The Annenberg Center and NextMove Dance co-present a special retrospective celebrating the legacy of dance in Philadelphia while looking to its future***

***In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Music, the Annenberg Center presents a two-concert series with the Daedalus Quartet***

***A robust schedule of jazz, world music, early music, new music, theatre, family, and holiday presentations completes the Annenberg Center's 48th season***

(Philadelphia – April 23, 2019) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Pennsylvania has announced its 2019-20 season, the third season curated by **Executive and Artistic Director Christopher A. Gruits**. Subscriptions are on sale now at [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org) or 215.898.3900. Single tickets will go on sale at a later date.

### **The Annenberg Center Presents the 2019-20 Season**

Continuing its long tradition of introducing new artists and innovative work to Philadelphia, the Annenberg Center announces its 2019-20 season, including 19 world, U.S. and Philadelphia premieres, and seven artists who will make their Philadelphia debut appearances. One of the most significant classical modern composers of

our time, Philip Glass, will be celebrated with the three-week #GLASSFEST, which honors his legacy in a range of performances, including one featuring the groundbreaking composer himself. Grammy® and Latin Grammy® award-winning vocalist and global superstar Lila Downs is the 2019-20 Artist-in-Residence, expanding the Annenberg Center's *The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City* series. In the 2019-20 season, the series shines a spotlight on Mexican Americans, one of our city's largest immigrant groups\*\*, and how this population has reshaped and contributed to the culture of Philadelphia. The University of Pennsylvania's quartet-in-residence, the Daedalus Quartet, performs a migration-focused series, and the Annenberg Center presents Philadelphia's own Grammy® award-winning new music choir, The Crossing, in its first local residency. The Annenberg Center and NextMove Dance continue their successful partnership to present a special retrospective series that will celebrate the tradition of bringing the best in dance to Philadelphia while also looking to the future of the art form. A robust schedule of jazz, world music, early music, new music, theatre, family, and holiday presentations completes the Annenberg Center's 2019-20 season.

"The Annenberg Center's 48th season presents the best in music, dance, and theatre, programs that entertain, bring joy, and challenge our perception of the world, sparking important conversations," said Executive and Artistic Director Christopher A. Gruits. "We continue our commitment to commissioning new works and fostering diverse, up-and-coming artists alongside renowned masters beloved by our audiences. This powerful convergence highlights new ideas while amplifying the contributions of some of the most influential artists of the last century. We are proud of the role the Annenberg Center plays in connecting Penn and Philadelphia communities—serving Penn students in their creative endeavors, interacting with the West Philly neighborhood in which we reside, and sharing the transformative power of the performing arts with audiences all across the metro-Philly area."

## **Festivals and Residencies**

### **#GLASSFEST**

The Annenberg Center celebrates the career and impact of **Philip Glass**, one of our nation's most significant modern composers, with #GLASSFEST. The Annenberg Center first presented the composer with the Philip Glass Ensemble in the 1990s. Through frequent appearances and a long-term commitment to showcasing new music, the Annenberg Center championed Glass and familiarized him to Philadelphia audiences. The three-week #GLASSFEST includes The Crossing choir performing **Knee Plays** works by Philip Glass and David Byrne (**February 21-22, 2020**); the Philadelphia premiere of Glass' groundbreaking **Music in Twelve Parts**, which will be performed in its five-hour entirety by The Philip Glass Ensemble (**February 29, 2020**); **Glass Reflections** performed by pianist Jenny Lin in the Egypt Upper Gallery at the Penn Museum (**March 5, 2020**); and theatrical work, **The White Lama: The Improbable Legacy of Theos Bernard** (**March 13-14, 2020**) by multi-disciplinary theatre artist and filmmaker Nikki Appino, featuring a score that will be performed by Glass himself.

### **Brownstein Residency for Artistic Innovation**

#### **2019-20 Artist-in-Residence: Lila Downs**

The Brownstein Residency for Artistic Innovation links notable visiting artists to the Penn and Philadelphia communities with a focus on interdisciplinary work and experiences for broad audiences. The 2019-20 season Artist-in-Residence will be Grammy® and Latin Grammy® award-winning vocalist and global superstar, **Lila Downs**. Oaxaca-born and Minnesota-raised, Lila Downs has curated several performances as part of her residency, expanding the Annenberg Center's series, **The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City**,

with a spotlight on one of Philadelphia's largest immigrant groups, Mexican Americans. The performances, campus workshops and local outreach activities will provide a lens to explore how Mexican Americans have reshaped Philadelphia and contributed to the city's culture and community traditions. Performers during the residency include **Lila Downs (May 1, 2020)**, **Jarana Beat (May 2, 2020)**, winner of the 2015 Mexican Music Award for Best Contemporary Folk Band; and Mexico's leading contemporary dance troupe **Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza (May 29-30, 2020)**.

### **The Crossing Residency**

The Annenberg Center presents Philadelphia's Grammy® Award-winning new music choir, **The Crossing**, in its first-ever local residency. Directed by Donald Nally, The Crossing will perform a three-concert series that includes **The Crossing @ Christmas** featuring **David Lang's Pulitzer Prize-winning *the little match girl passion*** and a world premiere by composer **Edie Hill (December 20, 2019, Church of the Holy Trinity)**; **Knee Plays by Philip Glass and David Byrne (February 21-22, 2020)**; and the world premiere of **Michael Gordon's *A Travel Guide to Nicaragua*** featuring cellist **Maya Beiser (March 22, 2020)**. The choir will also be present on campus, working with students from Penn's Department of Music.

### **The Daedalus Quartet**

**The Daedalus Quartet**, Penn's quartet-in-residence, will also explore migration through music as part of *The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City*, illustrating the ways in which centuries of cultural cross-pollination has enriched our artistic and spiritual life. In two concerts co-presented by the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Music, the quartet will perform works that exhibit the richness and complexity of this cultural convergence, including two world premieres: **an arrangement of traditional African American spirituals by Nansi Carroll with soprano Karen Slack (January 25, 2020)** and **a collaborative work by Kinan Abou-afach, featuring Abou-afach on cello and rababeh (April 4, 2020)**.

### **Season Opener**

The Annenberg Center opens its 2019-20 season **September 13-15** with Tina Satter/Half Straddle's production of ***Is This A Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription***, the true story of 25-year-old former Air Force linguist Reality Winner, who in 2017 was surprised at her home by the FBI, interrogated, charged with leaking evidence of Russian interference in the U.S. election, and ultimately imprisoned. This "blistering piece of political theater" (ARTFORUM) stages the FBI transcript of what happened in this real-life thriller. ***Is This A Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription*** premiered at The Kitchen in New York City on January 5, 2019. This production is a co-presentation with FringeArts as part of the 2019 Fringe Festival.

### **Jazz at the Annenberg Center**

- **Hiromi (October 12)** Electrifying. There's simply no better word to describe Hiromi's live performances. A pianist/composer known for a creative output that expands on jazz, classical and pop, Hiromi's "dazzling, explosive keyboard abilities" (NPR) captivate audiences and critics alike. This "forceful presence on any stage" (*The New York Times*) returns to the Annenberg Center for a rare, solo performance.
- **Messenger Legacy | Art Blakey Centennial (November 16)** Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers was a quintessential band for nearly 40 years, with a constant influx of only the best young musicians. Now, multiple generations of the group's elite alumni come together to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blakey's birth and the legacy he created by providing a life-changing apprenticeship for over 200 jazz musicians. With band members Bobby Watson, Essiet Essiet, Geoffrey Keezer, Brian Lynch and Bill

Pierce, this top-notch ensemble is led by Ralph Peterson, the only drummer ever to play in the band alongside the drum maestro himself. Co-presented with World Cafe Live.

- **Joel Ross | Good Vibes (November 21)** Joel Ross is a “bright young vibraphonist on his own rocket-like trajectory.” (*The New York Times*) Twice selected as a Thelonious Monk Institute National All-Star, Ross has performed with jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Christian McBride, leaving impressed fans in his wake. This rising jazz star makes his Philadelphia debut, performing music from his latest album, *KingMaker*.
- **Dianne Reeves | Christmas Time is Here (December 8)** Five-time Grammy® Award winner and 2018 NEA Jazz Master Dianne Reeves celebrates the holidays with such favorites as “Let It Snow,” “Carol of the Bells,” and “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” with the timeless grace, pure virtuosity and voice and soul of a true jazz diva.
- **Spanish Harlem Orchestra (January 31)** Fresh off a 2018 Grammy® win, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra returns to Philadelphia with sizzling salsa and Latin jazz in celebration of their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This powerhouse, 13-member group will perform music from their 2018 album, *Anniversary*, as well as past favorites, promising a lively evening of fiery salsa rhythms.
- **Alicia Olatuja | Intuition: Songs From the Minds of Women (February 16)** Alicia Olatuja captivates audiences with her exquisite vocals and artistic versatility. She burst into the national spotlight after performing at the 2013 Presidential Inauguration, and has since been praised by jazz diva Dianne Reeves as one of the finest young singers on the scene today. Blending her classical training with jazz, gospel and soul, Olatuja makes her Philadelphia debut performing music from her latest album, a celebration of women composers.
- **SFJAZZ Collective (April 5)** The all-star SFJAZZ Collective celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of two essential albums: Sly and Family Stone’s *Stand!* and Miles Davis’ *In a Silent Way*, both released in 1969. Stone created timeless expressions of joy and positivity, while Davis pushed jazz in new directions with pop, R&B and funk influences. This tribute by “a superbrain for what serious jazz sounds like now” (*The New York Times*) also includes new compositions.

### **World and Gospel Music at the Annenberg Center**

- **Sweet Honey in the Rock (September 21)** Internationally renowned a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock is known for its stunning vocal prowess rooted in the rich textures of African American legacy. This powerhouse group celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a joyful mix of gospel, blues, jazz and R&B. Through soulful harmonies, intricate rhythms and expressive ASL interpretation, Sweet Honey’s music “moves into your heart and pushes it open wider.” (NPR)
- **Jesse Cook (October 20)** Three-time winner of the Canadian Guitarist of the Year Award, Jesse Cook makes his Annenberg Center debut. Known as one of the most influential artists in nuevo flamenco, Cook creates an exhilarating fusion of jazz, R&B, electronic and world music. “Seductive, percussive and danceable...” (*Jazziz Magazine*)
- **Kulu Mele African Dance & Drum Ensemble | Ogun & the People (November 30)** Traditional West African dance and drumming take center stage as Philadelphia’s Kulu Mele makes its Annenberg Center debut in the commissioned work, *Ogun & the People*. This full-length production explores the Afro-Cuban/Yoruba parable of the deity Ogun, a warrior and protector who abandons the other gods, wreaking terrible violence and famine on the world. Through vibrant dance and energetic percussion, Kulu Mele celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in this very special world premiere. Major support for *Ogun & the People* has been provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. *Ogun & the People* is commissioned by the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

- **We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 17)** Inspired by the words and actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., We Shall Overcome features repertoire that electrified generations of civil rights activists and defenders. Led by multi-genre musician Damien Sneed, recipient of the prestigious Sphinx Medal of Excellence, this performance weaves spoken word from Dr. King's speeches with a musical lineage of gospel, jazz, classical and Broadway to reinvigorate and inspire future generations.
- **Angélique Kidjo (February 20)** With a striking voice and radiant charisma, three-time Grammy® Award winner Angélique Kidjo is a chart-topping world music superstar who has blended the West African traditions of her childhood with R&B, funk and jazz. Kidjo's "canyon-filling voice" (*Billboard*) and "irresistible energy" (*Los Angeles Times*) make for a powerful performance. Co-presented with World Cafe Live.
- **Danú (March 14)** With "a vibrant mix of virtuosity, empathy and energy" (*Washington Post*), Danú marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with timeless, Celtic tunes along with stunning, new melodies, offering a spirited journey to the heart of the Emerald Isle. The whole family will enjoy this lively celebration of Irish music in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.
- **Lila Downs (May 1)** Vocalist Lila Downs is a global superstar whose exquisite artistry bridges the musical traditions of Mexico and South America with North American folk, jazz and blues. "Few alternative artists have the dynamic power and range of this bilingual warrior-woman, who has recorded nine albums, earning a Grammy and four Latin Grammys along the way." (NPR Music) Performing music from her latest album, *Al Chile*, Downs is "a consummate performer whose three-octave vocal range shines." (*The Guardian*)
- **Jarana Beat (May 2)** Winner of the 2015 Mexican Music Award for Best Contemporary Folk Band, 11-piece band Jarana Beat blends Mexican folk and Afro-Amerindian musical traditions with the percussive footwork of dancers to create an uplifting, cross-cultural sound. Making its Annenberg Center debut, "Jarana Beat weaves intricate rhythms and delicate plucks with rich, yearning vocals to gorgeous and surprisingly jolly effect." (*Time Out New York*)

### **Early Music at the Annenberg Center**

- **Vox Luminis (November 1, Church of the Holy Trinity)** Belgian early music ensemble Vox Luminis is one of the foremost vocal ensembles specializing in "intensely dramatic and colourful" (*The Independent*) performances of Renaissance and Baroque music. Led by Artistic Director Lionel Meunier, the award-winning Vox Luminis makes its Annenberg Center debut in a celebration of the Italian Baroque, featuring works by Claudio Monteverdi and Domenico Scarlatti, including *Stabat Mater*, the signature work that inspired the group's founding.
- **Dunedin Consort | Meg Bragle, Mezzo-soprano (January 29)** Scotland's Gramophone Award-winning baroque ensemble makes its long-anticipated Philadelphia debut. Acclaimed for their joyously vivid music-making, the Dunedin Consort and featured mezzo-soprano soloist Meg Bragle promise an inimitably fresh performance of "Bach at his most ravishing." (*The Independent*) Under the direction of the preeminent Bach scholar John Butt, Dunedin Consort is recognized for its inquisitive approach, shining new light into some of the best-known pieces of the Baroque repertoire.
- **Les Violons du Roy | Avi Avital, Mandolin (April 25)** French-Canadian ensemble Les Violons du Roy, "the best early-music ensemble in North America," (*The Washington Post*) performs in Philadelphia for the first time with guest soloist and mandolin superstar Avi Avital. A true virtuoso, Avital's recent Carnegie Hall performance was hailed as "nothing short of electric" (*The New York Times*) and his Annenberg Center debut promises more high-voltage excitement.

## **New Music at the Annenberg Center**

- **The Crossing | The Crossing @ Christmas (December 20, Church of the Holy Trinity)** Known for its “rich, warm and beautifully focused sound,” (*The New York Times*) the multiple Grammy® Award-winning new music choir, The Crossing, performs its annual concert reflecting on our world in the winter holiday season. Conducted by Donald Nally, this year’s The Crossing @ Christmas features two modern passions: David Lang’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *the little match girl passion*, based on the Hans Christian Andersen story, and a world premiere by composer Edie Hill.
- **The Daedalus Quartet (January 25)** The Daedalus Quartet, Penn’s quartet-in-residence, explores migration through music, illustrating how centuries of cultural cross-pollination has enriched our artistic and spiritual life. Music truly has no borders, unifying through the universality of the human experience. In this performance, the quartet will perform works that exhibit the richness and complexity of this cultural convergence, including a world premiere of traditional African American spirituals by Nansi Carroll. Co-presented with the University of Pennsylvania’s Department of Music.
- **The Crossing | Knee Plays (February 21-22)** With “unerring performers, the superb Philadelphia choir The Crossing” (*The New Yorker*) offers a special programmatic pairing as part of our #GLASSFEST celebration. Philip Glass’ *Knee Plays* served as interludes in his first opera, *Einstein on the Beach*, which began a trio of works about men who changed the world with the power of their ideas. *Einstein on the Beach* was directed by Robert Wilson, who later sought out David Byrne as composer for a new, New Orleans-inspired *The Knee Plays* for his opera *the CIVIL warS*. Now, The Crossing, conducted by Donald Nally, offers a rare opportunity to experience these connected works on one program.
- **The Philip Glass Ensemble | Music in Twelve Parts (February 29)** The Philip Glass Ensemble returns to Philadelphia for the first time in 21 years to perform the local premiere of Glass’ groundbreaking *Music in Twelve Parts* in its entirety. Composed between 1971 and 1974, *Music in Twelve Parts* is a masterpiece of minimalism built on Glass’ exploration on repetition. Both a massive theoretical exercise and a deeply engrossing work of art, a complete performance of this seminal piece is a rare, coveted experience for Glass fans and all those who enjoy new music. Support for The Philip Glass Ensemble is provided by The Presser Foundation.
- **Jenny Lin | Glass Reflections (March 5, Egypt Upper Gallery, Penn Museum, 3260 South Street)** Known for her charismatic stage presence and “remarkable technical command” (*The New York Times*), Lin makes her Annenberg Center Presents debut. In her Glass Reflections program, Lin juxtaposes Philip Glass’ piano etudes with challenging works by Debussy, Liszt, Schubert and more, displaying the true universality of his music. Previously touring with Glass himself, Lin brings a technical brilliance and virtuosic facility to Glass’ lyrical and rhythmically demanding music.
- **The Crossing | A Travel Guide to Nicaragua featuring Maya Beiser, Cello (March 22)** Hailed as “superb” (*The New York Times*) and “ardently angelic,” (*The Los Angeles Times*) The Crossing is a multiple Grammy® Award-winning, Philadelphia-based new music choir conducted by Donald Nally. Known for its commitment to thought-provoking new works, The Crossing brings the “reigning queen of the avant-garde cello” (*The Washington Post*) Maya Beiser to Philadelphia for the world premiere of Michael Gordon’s *A Travel Guide to Nicaragua*. Gordon spent his childhood living in Nicaragua, and the piece reflects his memories and musings on the culture, as well as insights from Mark Twain’s writings of a trip through the small, beautiful country.
- **Daedalus Quartet (April 4, Arts, Research and Culture House (ARCH) 208 Auditorium, 3601 Locust Walk)** The Daedalus Quartet, Penn’s quartet-in-residence, explores migration through music, illustrating how centuries of cultural cross-pollination has enriched our artistic and spiritual life. Music truly has no borders, unifying through the universality of the human experience. In this performance, the quartet will perform works that exhibit the richness and complexity of this cultural convergence, including

a world premiere of a collaborative work by Kinan Abou-afach. Co-presented with the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Music.

- **Sō Percussion (April 18)** With an expansive sonic imagination and “exhilarating blend of precision and anarchy, rigor and bedlam,” (*The New Yorker*) Sō Percussion has redefined the scope of the percussion ensemble. Making its Annenberg Center debut, the group offers innovative interpretations of modern works by Dessner, Lansky and Cage as well as new compositions by Penn students. Co-presented with the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Music.

### **Family Programming at the Annenberg Center**

- **SUGAR SKULL! | A Día de Los Muertos Musical Adventure (September 28)** Why throw a party for the dead? Young Vita thinks her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. But, when a candy skeleton in her abuelita's cemetery suddenly springs to life, Vita finds herself on a magical, musical journey to unravel the true meaning of Día de los Muertos. Created by Mexico Beyond Mariachi, Sugar Skull! is a joyous look at the vibrant heart of Mexican culture.
- **MUMMENSCHANZ | you & me (February 16)** Theatrical whimsy meets silent storytelling in the uber creative Swiss troupe MUMMENSCHANZ. In this brand new show, these “dazzling and delightful” (*The New York Times*) musicians of silence take everyday objects and transform them into simple yet stunning shapes and forms, a visual spectacle for audiences of all ages.
- **Philadelphia Children's Festival (May 7-9)** The Annenberg Center presents the best in contemporary children's entertainment at its 35th annual Philadelphia Children's Festival.

### **Theatre at the Annenberg Center**

- ***Is This A Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription* (September 13-15)** Tina Satter/Half Straddle's production of *Is This A Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription* is the true story of 25-year-old former Air Force linguist Reality Winner, who in 2017 was surprised at her home by the FBI, interrogated, charged with leaking evidence of Russian interference in the U.S. election, and ultimately imprisoned. This “blistering piece of political theater” (ARTFORUM) stages the FBI transcript of what happened in this real-life thriller. Co-presented with FringeArts as part of the 2019 Fringe Festival. Premiered at The Kitchen, NYC, January 5, 2019. Developed in part at The Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep, New York Theatre Workshop's Dartmouth Residency, and a Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Residency in 2018.
- ***The White Lama: The Improbable Legacy of Theos Bernard* (March 13-14)** The first westerner to study at the secretive monasteries of Tibet and a national celebrity of the time, Theos Bernard set out on a rugged mountain trail in 1947 and was never seen nor heard from again. Conceived by Nikki Appino, *The White Lama* is a world premiere about the quest for the sacred, framed by the life of Bernard. Part biography, part invocation, this experimental work blends music, projected imagery and prose performed by Kevin Joyce, with a score played live by Tenzin Choegyal and Philip Glass. Major support for *The White Lama* has been provided to Nikki Appino by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

### **Dance at the Annenberg Center**

As previously announced in March, the 2019-20 dance series, presented by the Annenberg Center and NextMove Dance, includes:

- **Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal | *Dance Me / Music of Leonard Cohen* (September 26-28)** *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)** 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)** 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)** 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)** 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)** 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)** 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)** 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)** 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.



**\*\*Revision of May 20, 2019 notes that Mexican Americans are one of Philadelphia's largest immigrant groups, not the largest, according to the most recent Pew survey.**

[Photos of all artists in the 2019-20 season are available in the Annenberg Center's Press Room.](#)

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### **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](http://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](http://www.nextmovedance.org).

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