Hi-res images available at AnnenbergCenter.org/press.

England’s Motionhouse makes its American debut with Scattered, a dance and film tour-de-force

(Philadelphia, December 18, 2012)—Described as “a fascinating experience...an assault on the senses” (Manchester Evening News), British contemporary dance troupe Motionhouse makes its Philadelphia debut as a part of its first-ever North American tour at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Meshing live performance with film, Motionhouse brings its full-length work Scattered to the Annenberg Center stage as Dance Celebration continues its 30th anniversary season.

These performances are part of Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center. Performances take place at the Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut Street, on Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 PM; Friday, February 8 at 8 PM* and Saturday, February 9 at 2 PM & 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.

A “jaw-dropping, eye-popping work of creation that with movement, sound and sheer theatrical spectacle comes close to a hallucinogenic experience” (The Daily Echo), Motionhouse’s Scattered is a 70-minute piece that incorporates precise dance movements and cutting edge film technology, created in collaboration with Logela Multimedia from the Basque region of Spain. The piece is a physical exploration of our relationship with water—the substance that comprises over half of our bodies. Scattered explores the majesty and savagery of water as seven dancers plunge into an on-stage ocean, wrestle a raging tide and slide on an avalanche against a stunning frozen landscape. Performed on a huge curved floor which disappears skywards, Scattered uses projection technology, fluid dancing and aerial harnesses to create an extraordinary world in which the dancers move seamlessly in, on and through the image.

Scattered is performed on and within a set created just for this production, designed by long-term collaborator Simon Dormon, with an original music score by Sophy Smith and Tim Dickinson and lighting design by Natasha Chivers. Scattered is performed by Jade Barton, Claire Benson, Martina Bussi, Giorgio de Carolis, Daniel Connor, Junior Cunningham, Anthony Middleton, Alasdair Stewart and Rebecca Williams.

Motionhouse Artistic Director Kevin Finnan describes Scattered and its aqueous subject matter as “elemental in our future...I find it a fascinating subject to work on and look at it from different angles. In this project, we will continue to work with highly physical and visually strong expression, developing the aerial work, though there will also an element of surprise involved.”

Motionhouse was founded in 1988. Regarded as one of the United Kingdom’s premier dance companies, Motionhouse has toured 18 full-scaled productions since its inception 24 years ago. The company’s signature performance style fuses digital images and live performance. Motionhouse has toured in countries throughout Europe and the world including Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Ireland, Hungary, Romania, Italy, France, Japan and Spain. This international tour of Scattered marks the company’s first performance in the United States. David Mead of Dance Scene UK raves, “With Scattered, Finnan and his talented dancers have taken the company to a new level.”

-more-
**INSIGHTS**

Post–show talk back  
February 8  
Ticket holders can stay after the performance for a talk back with the company.

In addition to the performances, Motionhouse will be conducting a master class on Friday, February 8 at 1 PM (UARTS 211 S. Broad St.; advance registration is required). For more information, contact Anne-Marie Mulgrew.

**Significant funding for the 12/13 Dance Celebration season** is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by 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.

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**Dance Celebration**  
Founded by Artistic Director Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and nationally-recognized in its field. In the 12/13 season, Dance Celebration celebrates its 30th Anniversary. Dance Celebration has been 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 helps enhance 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 had 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 Theatre 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 Alley, 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–area 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 adventurous 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.

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