



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

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

KEIGWIN + COMPANY Returns with Four Philadelphia Premieres

(Philadelphia, October 1, 2013)—Celebrating a decade of dance-making in 2013, KEIGWIN + COMPANY will perform four Philadelphia premieres including the cheeky *Mattress Suite* and the playful new work, *Girls*, set to a Frank Sinatra medley. Winner of the Joe Allaway Award for his choreography in the new Off-Broadway production of *Rent*, Artistic Director and choreographer Larry Keigwin's work is recognized for its wit, theatrical sensibility and infusion of pop culture.

This production is part of Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center.

Performances take place at the Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut Street, on Thursday, November 21 at 7:30 PM; Friday, November 22 at 8 PM* and Saturday, November 23 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.



Love Songs (2006) is a series of playful duets that explore the various stages of love, set to music by Roy Orbison, Aretha Franklin and Nina Simone. Constructed in three parts, *Love Songs* showcases Keigwin's innate ability to create duets that accurately portray the complex dynamics of relationships. As hailed by *The New York Times*, "Mr. Keigwin's language, a rich mixture of gesture and invented movement, hovers between the abstract and the literal."

Mattress Suite (2003), a signature Keigwin work, is comprised of six individual pieces performed as solos and duets. Set to music ranging from classical to contemporary, the choreography explores love, life and the search for self. Clad in white underwear, the dancers stay on and around a mattress which serves as a set, prop and focal point for choreographic exploration, drawing the audience into intimate scenarios.

Set to a pulsing electronic score, *Triptych* (2009) is an abstract full-ensemble work that's based on classic photography triptychs. The piece explores concepts of duration, repetition and pattern while highlighting the technical prowess and unique personalities of each dancer. Deborah Jowitt of *The Village Voice* exclaims, "One of Keigwin's greatest gifts is for revealing the individuality of his champion dances. He lets you see them, he allows you to love them."

The tongue-in-cheek piece *Girls* (2013) was created as a counterpart to Keigwin's previous creation *Boys* (2012). Set to a Frank Sinatra medley, *Girls* features a trio of female dancers playfully weaving in and out of four different colored rain curtains. The choreography combines individual solo moments with intricate and challenging unison sections that radiate pure delight.

KEIGWIN + COMPANY made its Dance Celebration debut in 10/11 season with its full length work, *Elements*. Randy Swartz, Artistic Director of Dance Celebration, notes that "Larry Keigwin has established himself as a major new talent, and we are delighted to share work that has not been presented in Philadelphia."

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KEIGWIN + COMPANY was founded in 2003 by Artistic Director Larry Keigwin. The company creates and presents Keigwin's electrifying brand of contemporary dance. Since K+C's premiere performance at Joyce Soho in 2003, Keigwin has created 29 dances, including the acclaimed large-scale community project, *Bolero*, which has been commissioned in seven communities across the country, and *Runaway* (2008), a fashion-inspired choreographic ride, proclaimed "a thrilling coup d'theater" by James Wolcott of *Vanity Fair*. K+C is celebrating their 10th Anniversary Season in 2013, which is generously supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Over the past decade, K+C has presented performances throughout NYC and nationwide at venues including The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Summerdance Santa Barbara, New York City Center, The Joyce Theater, the American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival and many more.

INSIGHTS

***Post-show talk back**

November 22

Ticket holders can stay after the performance for a talk back with the company.

In addition, KEIGWIN + COMPANY will conduct two outreach activities – a Student Discovery performance for schools on Friday, November 22 at 10:30 AM and a free master class for the dance community on Friday, November 22 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 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 helps enhance the quality of life of both residents and visitors.

Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning dance 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 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:

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