



DANCE CELEBRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2010

CONTACT: NINA ZUCKER ASSOCIATES

610-667-0706 or cell: 610-457-4387 nzapr@aol.com

JPEG images available upon request

Dance Affiliates: Anne-Marie Mulgrew

215-636-9000 ext. 110 annemarie@danceaffiliates.org or

Penn Presents/Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

Lauren Saul / 215-573-8537 lasaul@ac.upenn.edu

**MACARTHUR FOUNDATION “GENIUS AWARD” WINNER,
ELIZABETH STREB PREMIERES FULL-LENGTH ACTION ADVENTURE
BRAVE
FEBRUARY 4-6, 2010
AT THE ANNENBERG CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS**

Philadelphia, PA– Daredevil stunts, slam-dancing and the heart-pumping thrills of a Demolition Derby are just some of the highlights of **STREB’s** full-length *Brave* which makes its Philadelphia premiere **February 4-6, 2010** as part of the Dance Celebration Series at the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA.**

Under the direction of founder/choreographer, self-described Action Architect and MacArthur Award winner Elizabeth Streb, **STREB’s** *Brave* is a series of ten “action events” performed by eight Olympian-conditioned dancers she calls “actioneers” – including **one Philadelphia native (and Temple graduate!) Samantha Jakus**. This extremely physical and highly theatrical event features dancers soaring from rafters, ducking, diving, grunting, crashing and yelling through swinging cinderblocks and fearlessly hurling themselves off a rotating structure kept in perpetual motion. Streb is referred to as the “Evel Knievel of Dance.” Her stellar collaborators include David Van Tieghem (composer/sound designer), Noe & Ivan España (circus performers and inventors of the **Whizzing Gizmo** design), Aaron Henderson (projection designer), Laura Flanders (librettist) and Zaire Baptiste (VJ/ DJ). *Time Out* New York has called **STREB’s** work “as devastatingly beautiful as it is violent.”

Events such as *Walk Run Turn*, *Crash and Slide*, *Falling* and *Artificial Gravity* demonstrate **STREB’s** movement exploration that challenges gravity and pushes the boundary of “pure movement.” She explains, “My dancers and I see the rehearsal as a laboratory for testing scientific principles on the body. We invent action ideas which we think are archetypal, noticeable and understandable.” In *Squirm*, as eight dancers are compressed in a constructed set like sardines in a can, one dancer manages to escape head first through a slit. In *Artificial Gravity*, the dancers work with two circular devices going in opposite directions on a rotating stage. Video projections show a view of the dancers from above adding another perspective. *Brave* is an exploration of circular motion. Throughout, the courageous actioneers shout instructions like “in-out” and code phrases like “vanilla shake” and “tuna melt.” And *Super Position*, the program closer, features circus artists Noe & Ivan España’s **Whizzing Gizmo**, an amusement park wheel-shaped, tower-like structure with dancers inside, precariously balanced on top, inside and around the edges.

Originally called **STREB/Ringside**, the company was founded in 1985. Its high impact and high velocity performance pieces became popular with the experimental dance and cutting-edge of entertainment audiences. In 2003, Elizabeth Streb founded S.L.A.M. (**STREB** Lab for Action Mechanics) in Brooklyn, NY, which is open to the public. She refers to her own choreography as “Pop Action” a fusion of dance, athletics, boxing, the circus and Hollywood stunt work based on daring and split second precision. She notes, “I question the rate, speed and all the invisible forces that cause movement to happen. Action is the message.”

(more)

2-2-2-2 ELIZABETH STREB PREMIERES *BRAVE* AT ANNENBERG FEBRUARY 4 - 6

Under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz, **Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center's Penn Presents**, maintains the tradition of bringing to Philadelphia the world's best contemporary touring dance companies. This season's **The Magic of Movement** pays tribute to American dance and showcases its diversity of styles, from tap to Broadway, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, multimedia, and dance theater.

Performances will take place on Thursday, February 4 at 7:30 pm; Friday, February 5 at 8:00 pm; and Saturday, February 6 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Ticket prices are \$28-\$48 (evening) and \$24-\$42 (matinee). Tickets may be purchased by calling the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900 or by visiting www.AnnenbergCenter.org

In addition to performances, **STREB** will offer outreach activities including two master classes as part of the *Artist to Artist Series* and a special school performance as part of the Annenberg Center's *Student Discovery Series*. For more information about the *Artist to Artist Series* call 215-636-9000 ext.110 or visit www.danceaffiliates.org. For more information about the *Student Discovery Series*, call 215-898-6789 or visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org/studentdiscovery

This tour of STREB is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program. *Fall Line, Airlines, Surface* and *Look Up* were made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces Dance Initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Significant funding for the 2009-10 Dance Celebration season is provided by the William Penn Foundation and also in part by Business Friends of Dance (Affiliates), The Connelly Foundation, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Presenters, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

For more information on **STREB** and Dance Celebration's 28th season or for press tickets and/or interview requests, please call Nina Zucker Associates at 610.667.0706 or email nzapr@aol.com. For more information on the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**, please contact Lauren Saul at **215-573-8537** or lasaul@ac.upenn.edu or visit www.AnnenbergCenter.org.

###