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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Seán Curran Company performs two Philadelphia premieres
NextMove Dance at the Prince
April 6-10**

(Philadelphia, PA) The world-traveled Seán Curran Company makes a rare Philadelphia appearance with two works by founder/choreographer Seán Curran. These Philadelphia premieres, *Social Discourse* and *Left Exit: Faith, Doubt, and Reason*, will be on the NextMove Dance series at The Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, April 6-10, 2016.

Set to a rousing score by Thom Yorke & Radiohead, *Social Discourse* (2007) is a movement - driven response to the music. It features six dancers in colorful costumes tearing through space at rapid speeds, accented by robust full-bodied partnering. Curran's choreographic approach reflects his roots as a lead performer with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in its architectural formalistic use of space and keeping the space fluid.

Left Exit: Faith, Doubt, and Reason (2010) asks questions as to how religion unites and divides us and what it means to be human. It explores secular reasoning, spiritual humanism and organized religion, illuminating the desire to search for life's significance and purpose. Curran refers to it as his "mid-life existential crisis." Set to a commissioned score by Jerome Begin which includes recorded texts from "The Atheism Tapes" and the film "Examined Life," this 50-minute work features nine dancers who interact, react, enter and exit frequently, followed by full ensemble sections. The New York Times states "Much of the choreography has a monumental quality that recalls the mythic works of Martha Graham. Tense tableaux are composed like the paintings of old masters."

In the 2015 winter/spring season Seán Curran choreographed for The Philadelphia Singers East Coast premiere of *Radio Hour* and, Opera Philadelphia's production of *Oscar*.

Performances take place Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30pm; Thursday, April 7 at 7:30pm; Friday, April 8 at 8pm; Saturday, April 9 at 2pm and 8pm; and Sunday, April 10 at 3pm. Tickets cost \$20-\$57 and can be purchased in person at the Prince Theater Box Office or online <http://princetheater.org>. NextMove at the Prince is presented by Dance Affiliates, a leading presenter in world-class dance, under the direction of F. Randolph Swartz.

In addition to the performances, the company will conduct a Student Discovery performance on Friday April 8 at 10:30am and a free master class on Friday, April 8 at 1pm, University of the Arts. The company will offer two post performance

chats for ticket holders on Thursday and Saturday (2pm) immediately following the performance. For outreach information contact Annemarie@danceaffiliates.org

ABOUT THE COMPANY

SEÁN CURRAN COMPANY, which was founded in 1997, has presented 27 premieres and toured to more than 65 venues in the U.S., France, Germany, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan. Presentations in New York City include Dance Theater Workshop, the Joyce Theater, Dance New Amsterdam, the Guggenheim Museum, New Victory Theater, 92nd Street Y/Harkness Dance Project, Danspace Project, Symphony Space, Central Park Summerstage and Celebrate Brooklyn. In 2012, Seán Curran Company was chosen by DanceMotion USAsm (produced by the Brooklyn Academy of Music) to perform and teach throughout Central Asia as cultural ambassadors of the US State Department. This journey inspired this collaborative project *Dream'd in a Dream* between the Seán Curran Company and traditional Kyrgyz music ensemble Ustatshakirt Plus, whose repertory encompasses a unique form of Kyrgyz mountain music rarely heard in western concert settings. Recent touring works include *Left Exit*, commissioned by the University of Notre Dame, and *Travel Songs*, an evening of works with the Grammy Award-winning King's Singers, which received tour support from the National Dance Project. The company's artistic excellence has been recognized through funding from the Jerome Robbins Foundation, NYSCA, NEA, O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Harkness Foundation for Dance, NYFA, Greenwall Foundation, Arts International's Fund for US Artists, Pentacle's ARC Fund, Theater Development Fund, and Altria Group, Inc.

SEÁN CURRAN (*Artistic Director*) began his dance training in traditional Irish step dancing as a young boy in Boston, MA. He was a leading dancer with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, with whom he received a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award for his performance in *Secret Pastures*. Curran was an original member of the New York City cast of the Off-Broadway percussion extravaganza *Stomp*, performing for four years. He performed his solo evening of dances at venues throughout the U.S. as well as at Sweden's Danstation Theatre and France's EXIT Festival. A graduate and faculty member of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Curran now serves as Chair of the Department of Dance. He has 20 years of teaching experience as a visiting artist for venues such as the American Dance Festival, Harvard Summer Dance Center, Bates Dance Festival, Boston's Conservatory of Music, and 100 U.S. university dance departments. Curran has created works for the Limón Dance Company, Trinity Irish Dance Company, ABT II, Denmark's Upper Cut Company, Sweden's Skånes Dance Theater, Irish Modern Dance Theatre, Ririe Woodbury Dance Theater, and Dance Alloy.

Notable commercial projects include original productions of *Salome* for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, San Francisco Opera, and Opera Montréal, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for The Shakespeare Theater, the 20th anniversary production of *Nixon in China* and *Street Scene* at Opera Theater of Saint Louis; choreography for the New York City Opera productions of *L'Etoile*, *Alcina*, *Turandot*, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *Capriccio*, and *Acis and Galatea*; the Playwrights Horizons' production of *My Life with Albertine*; Shakespeare in the Park's *As You Like It*; and the Metropolitan Opera production of *Romeo and Juliette*. Curran's work has also appeared on Broadway in James Joyce's *The Dead*, *The Rivals* and *Cymbeline*. He has been awarded several choreographer fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Support for Dance Affiliates

Dance Affiliates' inaugural NextMove Series is supported by Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, the Friends of Dance (Affiliates), National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the William Penn Foundation. State arts funding 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 of the Arts, a federal agency.

Dance Affiliates

Founded in 1979 by artistic director Randy Swartz, Dance Affiliates is one of the nation's few remaining dance-only presenters. Dance Affiliates was known internationally for its award-winning annual Dance Celebration program co-presented with Annenberg Center which was Philadelphia's longest-running series of world-class contemporary dance for the past 32 years. Having presented more than 200 companies in 2,000 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. In 2015, Dance Affiliates ended its partnership with Annenberg Center and launched the NextMove series in the newly renovated Prince Theatre in center city featuring eight companies in 54 performances. Visit www.danceaffiliates.org

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