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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Limón Dance Company
performs three Limón masterpieces
NextMove at the Prince
March 9-13 in six performances**

(Philadelphia, PA) Limón Dance Company celebrates its 70th Anniversary Tour with three of founder/choreographer José Limón's most celebrated works. Known worldwide for its dramatic expression, technical mastery and humanistic approaches, the company performs *The Moor's Pavane*, *The Winged* and *Mazurkas* on the NextMove series at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, March 9-13, 2016.

Performances take place Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30pm; Thursday, March 10 at 7:30pm; Friday, March 11 at 8pm; Saturday, March 12 at 2pm and 8pm; and Sunday, March 13 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.

The program opens with *Mazurkas* (1958) to Frederic Chopin's music and is a tribute to the heroic spirit of the Polish people in the face of annihilation during World War II. This ten-section work showcases the full ensemble as well as solos, duets, trios and quartet moments with women in cream-colored dresses and men in black trousers and shirts. As a repetitive motif, a soloist emerges from the group as a constant reminder of the individual's desire to be resilient.

The Moor's Pavane (1949), Limón's response to Shakespeare's *Othello* captures the drama and passion of a timeless tale of about love, jealousy and betrayal and was built on a Baroque social dance. In the original production, José Limón played the Moor with Lucas Hoving dancing the protagonist role of Iago. Set to Henry Purcell's stirring score, with staging by Carla Maxwell (artistic director of LDC), *The Moor's Pavane* has been heralded as Limón's most enduring work and has been performed by companies worldwide including Rudolf Nureyev in the 1970's. "As long as we lie, hate, envy and betray, José Limón's work will continue to fascinate." (The Washington Post)

"It was José's longtime dream to create a dance that would stand on its own without music, and he made quite a few" said Ms. Maxwell, an original member of the original cast of *The Winged* (1966). Before its premiere Limón added incidental sounds of birds and jazz snippets by Hank Johnson. In reworking the piece in 1995 for The Juilliard School, Jon Magnussen was commissioned to create a new score. This work looks at our feathered friends – real, imaginary and mythical from Pegasus to the generic bird capturing lightness and flight as flocks of dancers swoop, dive and circle.

In addition to the performances, the company will conduct a Student Discovery performance on Friday March 11 at 10:30am and a free master class on Friday, March 11 at 1pm, Drexel University Dance. 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

The **Limón Dance Company (LDC)** has been at the vanguard of American Modern Dance since its inception in 1946. The first company to survive its founder's death, LDC has become a house of dance treasures in the four decades since Limón's passing, developing a repertory of unparalleled breadth. Under the leadership of Carla Maxwell, LDC has produced over 90 commissions/acquisitions to complement the outstanding classics by founders Humphrey and Limón. This oeuvre represents 42 choreographers and 43 new commissions/acquisitions by Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Donald McKayle, Murray Louis, Susanne Linke, Meredith Monk, and Jiří Kylián. LDC's milestones include the first group to tour under the auspices of the American Cultural Exchange Program (1954), the first dance troupe to perform at Lincoln Center (1963), and appearing twice at The White House (1967 and 1995). LDC is one of two components of the José Limón Dance Foundation, which also conducts educational programs and disseminates the Limón repertory through the Limón Institute. Most recently, the José Limón Dance Foundation was awarded a 2008 National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

JOSÉ LIMÓN (*Founder/Choreographer, 1908-1972*) electrified the world with his dynamic masculine dancing and dramatic choreography. One of the 20th century's most important and influential dance makers, he spent his career pioneering a new art form and fighting for its recognition. Born in Culiacán, Mexico in 1908, he moved to California in 1915, and in 1928 came to New York where he saw his first dance program. Limón enrolled in Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman's dance school and performed in several of their works from 1930 to 1940. In 1946, with Doris Humphrey as Artistic Director, Limón formed his own company. Over the next 25 years, he established himself and his company as a major force of 20th century dance. Limón was a key faculty member in The Juilliard School's Dance Division and continued choreographing until his death in 1972. Limón created a total of seventy-four works, including *The Moor's Pavane*, *Missa Brevis*, and *Psalm*.

DORIS HUMPHREY (*Founder and Choreographer, 1895-1958*) is recognized as a founder of American Modern Dance. She developed a distinctive movement approach based on the body's relationship to gravity and the use of weight. The company she formed with Charles Weidman produced great dances as well as outstanding performers, José Limón among them. When physical disability ended her career as a dancer, she became the Artistic Director for José Limón and LDC, creating new works for him and choreographing for The Juilliard Dance Theater.

CARLA MAXWELL (*Artistic Director*) joined LDC in 1965 and soon became a principal dancer under Limón's direction. In 1975, she served as Assistant Artistic Director under Ruth Currier, and in 1978 she was appointed Artistic Director. Under her direction, LDC has developed into one of the finest repertory dance ensembles in the world. She received the 1995 *Dance Magazine* Award and a 1998 New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award. Her work has also been honored by the governments of Colombia and Mexico, and she was the recipient of a 2002/2003 Isadora Duncan Award for her re-staging of José Limón's *Psalm*. Acclaimed as a brilliant dramatic dancer, Maxwell danced many major roles with LDC, including the title role in *Carlota*, which Limón choreographed for her. She is responsible for many of LDC's reconstructions of Limón dances and, as a choreographer, has created works and taught for LDC and others internationally. Carla Maxwell is recipient of the Martha Hill Dance Fund 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award.

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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