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Editors: Images are available upon request.

The dance illusionist troupe MOMIX  
performs *Opus Cactus*  
for a two week run May 11-25 and 18-22 at the Prince Theater

(Philadelphia, PA) Known worldwide for creating multi-media works of exceptional inventiveness and astounding physical beauty, MOMIX brings its full-length theatrical spectacle *Opus Cactus* concluding NextMove Dance's inaugural season at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street. Twelve performances are scheduled May 11-15 and 18-22, 2016 to accommodate this popular presentation.

Conceived and directed by MOMIX's artistic director Moses Pendleton, *Opus Cactus* is a visual journey into the splendors of the American Southwest. Ten exceptionally-talented dancer-athletes bring the desert landscape to life. Set to an hypnotic music score ranging from Bach, to tribal, to new age, to contemporary, *Opus Cactus* is "at heart a sprawling, luscious fantasy... a feast for the eyes." (New York Times)

Performances take place Wednesday, May 11 and 18 at 7:30pm; Thursday, May 12 and 19 at 7:30pm; Friday, May 13 and 20 at 8pm; Saturday, May 14 and 21 at 2pm and 8pm; and Sunday, May 15 and 22 at 3pm. Tickets are \$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 Randy Swartz.

Built on 19 stunning vignettes, this work features low-flying trapeze, vaulting poles, larger-than-life puppets designed by Michael Curry, constructed costumes designed by Phoebe Katzin, and harnesses and belly dollies taking audiences on an imaginative adventure. The work opens with "Sonoran: But Not Asleep." Ensuing sections titled "Desert Storm," "Cactus/Wren," "Ostrich of the Imagination," "Sidewinder," "Gila Dance," and "Dream Catcher," examine a vast landscape filled with snakes, lizards, cacti, and birds. "Fire Walker" and "Totem" comment on Native American Indian culture.

Moses Pendleton notes, "I spent time in the Southwest making this piece, originally for Arizona Ballet, and I did get out into the Sonoran desert. The cacti, like living statuary, the rolling tumbleweeds, the way a Gila monster moves, the desert night, it was only as short step into the fantasy world of MOMIX."

## PHILADELPHIA CONNECTIONS

The award-winning choreographer Moses Pendleton is the recipient of an honorary doctoral degree from University of the Arts. His troupe, a Philly favorite, includes dancer Jenna Marie Graves who attended Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts and was a member of Eleone Connections Dance Company. MOMIX's full-length works *Lunar Sea*, *Baseball*, *Alchemy*, *Botanica*, and *Passion* have graced Philadelphia stages for the past 25 years to sold-out audiences. *Opus Cactus* made its Philadelphia premiere in 2002-2003 which included an opening solo "Fire Dance" choreographed by Brian Sanders. Sanders toured with MOMIX for 10 years and returned to Philadelphia to form JUNK.

In addition to the performances, the company will conduct two Student Discovery performances on Friday May 13 and May 20 at 10:30am and two free master classes on Friday, May 13 and May 20 at 1pm. The company will also offer four post performance chats for ticket holders on Thursday and Saturday (2pm) immediately following the performance. For outreach information contact [Annemarie@danceaffiliates.org](mailto:Annemarie@danceaffiliates.org)

### ABOUT MOMIX

With nothing more than light, shadow, props, and the human body, MOMIX, under the direction of Moses Pendleton, has astonished audiences on five continents for more than 35 years. In addition to stage performances worldwide, MOMIX has worked in film and television, recently appearing in a national commercial for Hanes underwear and a Target ad that premiered during the airing of the 67th Annual Golden Globe Awards. With performances on PBS's "Dance in America" series, France's Antenne II, and Italian RAI television, the company's repertory has been broadcast to 55 countries. Joining the Montréal Symphony in the Rhombus Media film of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, winner of an International Emmy for Best Performing Arts Special, the company's performance was distributed on laser disc by Decca Records. MOMIX was also featured in IMAGINE, one of the first 3-D IMAX films to be released in IMAX theaters world-wide. MOMIX dancers, Cynthia Quinn and Karl Baumann, played the role of "Bluey" in the feature film *FX2*; and *White Widow*, co-choreographed by Moses Pendleton and Cynthia Quinn, was featured in Robert Altman's movie, *The Company*. Participating in the *Homage a Picasso in Paris*, MOMIX was also selected to represent the US at the European Cultural Center at Delphi. MOMIX has been commissioned by corporations such as Fiat and Mercedes Benz, performing at Fiat's month long 100th Anniversary Celebration in Torino, Italy and Mercedes Benz's International Auto Show in Frankfurt, Germany.

### 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 finest 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](http://www.danceaffiliates.org)

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**For More Information or Interviews:** Dance Affiliates, Anne-Marie Mulgrew  
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