



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Parsons Dance brings a world premiere featuring dancers and
programmed flying drones December 7–11 to NextMove at the Prince Theater**

(Philadelphia, PA) Parsons Dance, under the artistic direction of David Parsons, recognized worldwide for its joyful, athletic, and eye-catching choreography impeccably performed by his virtuoso dancers, perform December 7-11, at the Prince Theater 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. on the NextMove Dance Series. Highlights include a world premiere, two Philadelphia premieres and three of Parsons' signature works including ***Caught***, his stroboscopic masterpiece.

Performances take place Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30pm; Thursday, December 8 at 7:30pm; Friday, December 9 at 8:00pm; Saturday, December 10 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, December 11 at 3:00pm. Tickets are \$20–\$60 and can be purchased in person at the Prince Theater box office, by phone 215-422-4580 or online at <http://princetheater.org/next-move>.

The Machines, a world premiere by Parsons, is set to music by John Mackey features six dancers and six highly sophisticated robotic drones. Created in collaboration with engineers from the ExCITe Center (Expressive and Creative Interactive Technologies Center) at Drexel University under the direction of Dr. Youngmoo Kim, this work explores the evolution of man and machine. "Basically the evolution of technology is what I'm looking at. Man and machine. How is it going to change, and how it already has in so many ways?" "I wanted them (the drones) to be virtuosic in their movements, so people can actually look at a machine and find a beauty in the movement, like they would when they were watching a human dance," Parsons said. "You're sitting there watching and clapping for a machine."

The program opens with *Finding Center* (2015) a Philadelphia premiere, set to music by Thomas Newman, winner of six Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award and nominated for 13 Oscars including one for his film score for *American Beauty*, This exuberant and highly-musical work for six dancers, choreographed by Parsons, is inspired by the art works of American visual artist Rita Blitt. *Hand Dance* (2003) is Parsons' whimsical, inventive, and minimal work for five dancers and ten hands to Kenji Brunch's music. *Caught* 1982, Parsons' masterwork, performed by Ian Spring, features him flying in air as if caught in a still photograph. Bachtrack.com notes, "I heard the gasps of wonder from people who had not seen it before. The visual imagery stays long after the dance is over." Closing the program is Parsons, *In the End* (2005) a rollicking full-company show-stopper to the upbeat music of the Dave Matthews Band.

The program also includes the Philadelphia premiere of *Almah* (2015) choreographed by Katarzyna Skarpetowska to the folksy, brassy music of Ljova. Skarpetowska was Parsons' lead dancer from 1999-2006. She performed with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company (2007-2014) and was a guest artists with The Battleworks Dance Company. Dance Magazine named her as "One of the 25 to watch" in 2016.

In addition to the six performances, the company will conduct outreach activities. These include a program for the Student Discovery Series, Friday, December 9 at 10:30am, a master class, Friday, December 9 at 1pm, and post-performance chats after the Thursday 7:30pm and Saturday 2pm performances. A short chat with Parsons precedes each performance.

DAVID PARSONS (Artistic Director/CoFounder) has enjoyed a remarkable career as a director, choreographer, performer, master teacher and producer. Born in Chicago and raised in Kansas City, Parsons performed with The Paul Taylor Dance Company, New York City Ballet, Berlin Opera, and The White Oak Dance Project. He has created more than 75 works for Parsons Dance. Commissions include American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. His work has been performed by Paris Opera Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Joffrey Ballet, and Ballet de Rio De Janeiro. Parsons has worked on such diverse projects as Julie Taymor's film *Fool's Fire*, *AIDA* at Opera de Verona, *Maria de Buenos Aires* for Gotham Chamber Opera and *Remember Me*, a collaboration with East Village Opera Company. He holds an honorary doctorate and was the first recipient of the Howard Gilman Fellowship to complete his masters. *The New York Times* has called Parsons "one of the great movers of modern dance."

PARSONS DANCE is New York City based modern dance company, internationally renowned for creating and performing contemporary American dance of extraordinary artistry that is accessible and enriching to diverse audiences. Founded in 1985 by artistic director David Parsons and Tony Award-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, Parsons Dance is known for its energized, athletic, ensemble work, and has collaborated with iconic artists including Billy Taylor, Milton Nascimento, Allen Toussaint, William Ivey Long, Donna Karan, Annie Leibovitz, and Alex Katz. The company has toured to more than 383 cities, 22 countries and across 5 continents. New York Magazine called Parsons "one of modern dance's great living dance-makers." Parsons' mission is to deliver positive, affirming, life enriching experiences to audiences worldwide by maintaining a repertory of over 75 works by David Parsons and producing his new work; inviting established choreographers to re-stage works on the company; and commissioning young American choreographers with Parsons' newly launched GenerationNOW Fellowship. This year-long mentorship under David Parsons culminates in a commission that premieres as a part of the Parsons' season at the Joyce Theater and joins the company's touring repertory for the following season.

Dance Affiliates/NextMove Dance

Artistic director Randy Swartz created the first annual dance series in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theatre in 1970. In 1983, he launched the Dance Celebration series at the Annenberg Center for a 32-year run and initiated a new annual series at the Prince Theater in October 2015. Dance Affiliates, renamed NextMove Dance, is recognized as one of the nation's finest dance presenters. Known internationally for award-winning presentations for more than three decades, Dance Affiliates/NextMove Dance provides a wealth of opportunities for the Delaware Valley community to interact with the artists through talk-backs, master classes, artistic collaborations, workshops, children's programs and much more.

Funding for the 2016/17 season of NextMove Dance is provided by the Friends of Dance, 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 for the Arts, a federal agency. Visit www.danceaffiliates.org

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