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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company makes its Philadelphia debut
on NextMove Dance February 15-19**

(Philadelphia, PA) Malpaso Dance Company, one of Cuba's hottest and newest multi-cultural contemporary dance troupes, makes its Philadelphia debut February 15-19 at the Prince Theater 1412 Chestnut Street. The company brings two major works *24 Hours and a Dog* choreographed by Osnel Delgado (Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Malpaso Dance Company) and *Why You Follow* choreographed by Ronald K. Brown (Artistic Director of Evidence).

Performances take place Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30pm; Thursday, February 16 at 7:30pm; Friday, February 17 at 8:00pm; Saturday, February 18 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, February 19 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>.

24 Hours and a Dog (2013) is a 40-minute seven-sectioned full-company work choreographed by Osnel Delgado in collaboration with the dancers. Set to the theatrical and evocative music by Grammy Award-winning jazz composer Arturo O'Farrill, the work is inspired by the daily life of a dancer in Havana -- the rhythms of everyday life and a mysterious invisible character of a dog. Choreographically, the piece is a barrage of fluid movement showcasing the virtuoso technique of the company, marked by high extensions mixed with sublime elegance and power in solo, duet and group sections. The costumes, featuring women in pleated Cuban school girl uniforms, further emphasize the youthfulness and sparkle of this new troupe. NOW Toronto notes "As the theatre begins to vibrate with accumulated energy, you get the feeling that they could dance just about any genre with jaw-dropping style... which makes their unique expression of Cuban culture in all its profound and complex glory all the more special."

Ronald K. Brown's *Why You Follow* (2014) is a rousing exploration of the rhythmic pace of Afro-Cuba. This ensemble work evolves from a sensual almost-natal darkness into a rollicking poly-rhythmic house party. It consists of four sections: *Open Heart*, *Commitment*, *The Path*, and *Faithfully Forward* to music by Zap Mama, Gordheaven & Juliano,

The Allenko Brotherhood, and Heavy Quarterz. Dance Enthusiast notes, the work “features vibrant steps performed to infectious Afro-Cuban sounds. African, disco, hip hop, and modern dance forms meld with the performers’ vivacious flair to create a singular, communal style.”

In addition to the six performances, the company will conduct outreach activities. These include a program for the Student Discovery Series, Friday, February 17 at 10:30am, a master class, Friday, February 17 at 1pm, and post-performance chats after the Thursday 7:30pm and Saturday 2pm performances

ABOUT MALPASO DANCE COMPANY Based in Havana, Cuba, Malpaso Dance Company is committed to bringing Cuban contemporary dance into the 21st century by collaborating with top international choreographers and nurturing new voices in Cuban choreography. The company’s core artistic vision is led by resident repertory choreographer Osnel Delgado, and the company develops its work in a collective creative process. Malpaso was founded in 2012 by Delgado, Daileidys Carrazana and Fernando Saéz, and consists of 10 dancers. Malpaso Dance Company is an associate company of Joyce Theater Productions

OSNEL DELGADO (Founder, Artistic Director and Choreographer) danced with Danza Contemporanea de Cuba from 2003 to 2011, before founding Malpaso. He has worked with choreographers Mats Ek, Rafael Bonachela, Kenneth Kvarnström, Ja Linkens, Itzik Galili, Samir Akika, Pedro Ruiz, Isidro Rolando and George Cespedes. Delgado has created works for DCC, Rakatan and Ebony Dance of Cuba. Delgado is a 2003 graduate of the National Dance School of Havana, where he is also a professor of dance studies.

RONALD K. BROWN (Choreographer, *Why You Follow*) has studied extensively with Mary Anthony, whose technique includes a combination of Martha Graham and Hanya Holm. Brown performed as a dancer with Jennifer Muller/The Works, Muller, Bebe Miller, and Maguy Marin who were very influential in his work. His dances derive from his interpretation of the human condition and refer to numerous cultural sources including history, tradition, modern and urban dance movement and dance forms from Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. In addition to his own company, Evidence, Brown has choreographed for and set works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Jeune Ballet d’Afrique Noire, Ko-Thi Dance Company, Def Dance Jam Workshop, Ballet Hispanico and Philadanco. His theater credits include Regina Taylor’s award-winning play, Crowns, and the Tony Award-winning revival of The Gershwins’ *Porgy and Bess* starring Audra McDonald.

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 Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, The Heuer Foundation, 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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