



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 14, 2016

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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Doug Varone and Dancers graces the stage with two Philadelphia premieres and  
Varone's masterpiece *Possession*  
Presented by NextMove Dance January 18-22.**

(Philadelphia, PA) Known for its technical prowess, versatility, emotional breadth, and humanistic approaches, Doug Varone and Dancers performs January 18-22 at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street. The Company brings three works - *Recomposed* (2015), *Folded* (2016) and *Possession* (1994). Winner of an OBIE Award and John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Doug Varone (Artistic Director) is recognized globally for his work in dance, theater, opera and film.

Performances take place Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30pm; Thursday, January 19 at 7:30pm; Friday, January 20 at 8:00pm; Saturday, January 21 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, January 22 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>.

*Recomposed* is a colorful full-company work inspired by the artwork of abstract expressionist American artist Joan Mitchell. Set to Michael Gordon's stirring score *Dystopia*, Varone's choreography swoops and hurls through space at great speeds accented by intense moments of stillness and silhouettes. Varone notes, "As a dance-maker, I have always considered myself a visual artist, using the landscape of a dancer's body to paint and sculpt each new work."

Set to Philip Glass' Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, *Possession*, Varone's masterpiece, was reconstructed to celebrate the Company's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Based on A.S. Byatt's novel about two poets who fell in love while doing research, Varone blends humanity with incredible physicality. This three section 28-minute non-linear narrative work told through movement examines key imagery from the novel. The Santa Barbara News Press stated, "*Possession* was exhilarating. The dance and music keep you on the edge of your seat. You are fascinated by the way it just keeps happening. Images of the performance are still zipping around in my head."

*Folded* (2016) is a duet from a larger work *States of Belief* (working title) set to the dissonant music of Philadelphia-born composer and MacArthur Fellow, Julia Wolfe. This abstract dance explores relationships and the intimate interactions between two dancers falling in and out of sync as they lift, bump, crash, and touch and intertwine.

In addition to the six performances, the company will conduct outreach activities. These include a program for the Student Discovery Series, Friday, January 20 at 10:30am, a master class, Friday, January 20 at 1pm, and post-performance chats after the Thursday 7:30pm and Saturday 2pm performances. A short chat with Varone precedes each performance.

**DOUG VARONE** (Artistic Director) is an award-winning choreographer and director who works in dance, theater, opera, film, and fashion. Commissions include the Limón Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Rambert Dance Company (London), Martha Graham Dance Company, Dancemakers (Canada), Batsheva Dance Company (Israel), Bern Ballet (Switzerland) and An Creative (Japan). In opera, He is in demand as both a director and choreographer. Among his four productions at The Metropolitan Opera are *Salome* with its *Dance of the Seven Veils*, the world premiere of Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy*, Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*, designed by David Hockney, and Hector Berlioz's *Les Troyens*. He has staged multiple premieres and new productions for Minnesota Opera, Opera Colorado, Washington Opera, New York City Opera, and Boston Lyric Opera. Theater credits include choreography for Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theaters. His choreography for last season's musical *Murder Ballad* at Manhattan Theater Club earned him a Lortel Award nomination. Film credits include choreography for the Patrick Swayze film, *One Last Dance*. In 2008, Varone's *The Bottomland* was the subject of the PBS *Dance in America: Wolf Trap's Face of America*. Most recently, he directed and choreographed MASTERVOICES production of *Dido and Aeneas* at NY's City Center, starring Tony Award winners Kelli O'Hara and Victoria Clark, alongside the Company.

The 2016/17 season marks **DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS'** 30th year. Since its founding in 1986, Doug Varone and Dancers has commanded attention for its expansive vision, versatility, and technical prowess. On the concert stage, in opera, theater and on the screen, Varone's kinetically thrilling dances make essential connections and mine the complexity of the human spirit. From the smallest gesture to full-throttle bursts of movement, Varone's work can take your breath away. The company has performed in more than 100 cities in 45 states across the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Canada, and South America. Stages include The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, San Francisco Performances, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Toronto's Harbourfront, Moscow's Stanislavsky Theater, Buenos Aires' Teatro San Martin, the Venice Biennale, Marble Hall in Tokyo, and the Bates, Jacob's Pillow and American Dance Festivals. In opera and theater, the company regularly collaborates on the many Varone-directed or choreographed productions that have been produced around the country.

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

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