



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Jessica Lang Dance performs four Philadelphia premieres including
Thousand Yard Stare and *Her Road*
NextMove Dance April 5-9**

(Philadelphia, PA) Jessica Lang Dance (JLD) returns with Philadelphia premieres and repertory favorites including its masterwork, *The Calling*, performed by guest artist /Alvin Ailey dancer Kanji Segawa, Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, April 5-9. The program is choreographed by artistic director, Bessie Award winner and Philly native Jessica Lang.

Performances take place Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30pm; Thursday, April 6 at 7:30pm; Friday, April 7 at 8:00pm; Saturday, April 8 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, April 9 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>.

Solo Bach (2008) kicks off the program followed by *Among the Stars* (2010), a romantic balletic duet about a couple who meet only once a year on the seventh day of the seventh lunar cycle to Ryuichi Sakamoto's ethereal music.

Thousand Yard Stare (2015), a powerful full-ensemble work, is a tribute to war veterans. Set to Beethoven's "String Quartet no. 15," the title refers to the blank gaze of soldiers going into battle. The work features dancers in camouflage costumes designed by Project Runway finalist Bradon McDonald. Inspired by Lang's work with military veterans, Lang's choreography incorporates basic-training maneuvers, drills, foot stomping, parades and geometric staging. Soldiers' drawings were also integrated into the costumes.

Alternating performances are two works *Sweet Silent Thought* (2016) and *Her Road* (2017). Inspired by Shakespeare's sonnets. *Sweet Silent Thought*, so named from the first line of sonnet 30, is a quartet celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death. *Her Road* 2017 is inspired by the life of and work of American painter Georgia O'Keeffe's "Road Series." Set to music by Beethoven, *Her Road* features four women in white dresses dyed sky blue at the bottom connected to a blue-colored fabric that stretches from the floor to the stage wing designed by Jessica and Jim Lang.

The program also includes Lang's *The Calling (excerpt from Splendid Isolation II)* (2006) to music by Trio Mediaeval featuring a solo dancer in a 12-foot-wide flowing white dress.

In addition to the six performances, the company will conduct outreach activities. These include a Student Discovery Matinee, Friday, April 7 at 10:30am, a master class, Friday April 7 at 1pm, and post-performance chats after the Thursday 7:30pm and Saturday 2pm performances. There will also be a special post-performance chat after the Friday 8pm performance with Philadelphia Museum of Art's Jessica T. Smith The Susan Gray Detweiler Curator of American Art, and Manager, Center for American Art and Jessica Lang moderated by Randy Swartz, Artistic Director of NextMove Dance.

Founded in 2011, **Jessica Lang Dance** is dedicated to creating and performing the work of Jessica Lang. JLD has been presented in world renowned venues including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Winspear Opera House and Northrop Auditorium. The company's performances have been named among the best dance events of the year by major publications in Dallas, Chicago and Boston. JLD's funding includes support from Rockefeller Brothers Fund, NEA, Jerome Robbins Foundation, Shubert Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Harkness Foundation for Dance. jessicalangdance.com.

JESSICA LANG (*Choreographer/Artistic Director*) Jessica Lang is a choreographer and the artistic director of Jessica Lang Dance. Lang, a recipient of a prestigious 2014 Bessie Award and the 2017 Arison Award Honoree, has created more than 95 works on companies worldwide since 1999 including American Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet (2013 Manchester Theatre Award nominee), the National Ballet of Japan and Joffrey Ballet. Additional commissions include new works for the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra, The Harris Theater and the Chicago Architecture Biennial in collaboration with architect Steven Holl, the Dallas Museum of Art and the Guggenheim Museum for its *Works and Process* series. For opera, Lang made her directorial debut creating Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* at the 2013 Glimmerglass Opera Festival. In 2016, she choreographed *Aida* for San Francisco Opera, which will be performed by Washington National Opera and Seattle Opera in the 2017/18 season. She was a 2015 New York City Center Fellow and a 2016 Fellow at NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts.

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. NextMove Dance, is recognized as one of the nation's finest dance presenters. Known internationally for award-winning presentations for more than three decades, 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.

Support for the 2016/17 season of NextMove Dance is provided by BB & T Bank, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, The Heuer Foundation, National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, WAWA, 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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