

News Release

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THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER of GREATER PITTSBURGH PRESENTS RONALD K. BROWN/EVIDENCE

Nina Simone-inspired "Come Ye" featured, co-commissioned by the AACC

PITTSBURGH, PA – The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh proudly presents the astounding dance ensemble **Ronald K. Brown/Evidence** in two performances, **October 29 and October 30, 2004, 8:00pm, at the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Theater, 111 Ninth Street, Downtown.**

These performances feature Brown's "Come Ye," a tribute to the music, legacy and life of singer Nina Simone, co-commissioned by the AACC. The new work, which premiered in 2003, expresses ideas of freedom of the spirit. In writing of his inspiration for this work, Brown notes, "My curiosity with [Simone's] work and 'Come Ye' is consistent with my interest and dedication to review the messages of artists and activists who have made offerings rooted in spiritual guidance, history and the pursuit of liberation." At the heart of this work is Simone's song "Come Ye," which appears on her 1967 release "High Priestess of Soul."

Also included on the program are Brown's "Upside Down" and "Grace." "Upside Down" focuses on community mourning, and uses the loss of a member as a call to solidarity and a reflection on destiny. It is set to Malian vocalist Oumou Sangare's "Kun Fe Ko (The Uncertainty of Things)" and Fela Kuti's song "Upside Down." "Grace," which features the music of Duke Ellington, Roy Davis, Jr. and Fela Kuti, evokes life's journey, and, according to Brown, is meant to "lift one's spirit and stir one's soul."

Mr. Brown founded Evidence in 1985, creating the dance company with specific focus on developing African Contemporary Dance, and discussing issues of race, class, gender and assimilation. The company's mission is, in part, to share perspectives through modern dance, theater, and kinetic storytelling.

Tickets for RONALD K. BROWN/EVIDENCE can be purchased through ProArts Tickets by calling 412.394.3353 or by visiting www.proartstickets.org. All Tickets are \$32. Students with valid I.D. can purchase tickets for \$12.

Following the Friday, October 29 performance, the audience can stay for a Question & Answer session with Ronald K. Brown and the Evidence Dance Company. Also, as a part of their Pittsburgh engagement, **Ronald K. Brown/Evidence** will lead a Master Class for advanced dance students at the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts on Saturday, October 30 at 11am. Space is limited. Interested participants can call the African American Cultural Center at 412.258.2700 for more information.

More information is available at the African American Cultural Center's website, www.africanaculture.org.

The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh is a not-for-profit organization that presents exhibitions, performances, education and public programs

that deepen understanding and appreciation of the African American artistic, cultural and social contributions to Pittsburgh, the nation and the world.

The programs of the African American Cultural Center's 2004-2005 season are supported by lead gifts from The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation. Operating support has been provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District.

This presentation of Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE is made possible with the support of: Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

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PLEASE NOTE: Due to his current touring schedule please, interviews with Ronald K. Brown's should be arranged as soon as possible. To arrange for interviews, and to obtain photos and bios of the artists, please contact:

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