



MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Treshea N. Wade
Manager, Marketing & Communications
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
Office 412.338.8734
Cell 412.716.8961
TWade@AugustWilsonCenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble Ignites the Stage
With World Premieres of Three New Works**

PITTSBURGH, PA—December 29, 2010—The August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble (AWCDE) raises the curtain on the New Year with *The Dynamic Men of Dance...Celebration of the Black Man*, a trio of works by rising New York City choreographers **Kyle Abraham**, **Antonio Brown** and **Darrell Grand Moultrie**. AWCDE will perform the program at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture 8 pm January 21 and 3 pm January 23.

The performance is a part of the August Wilson Center's year-long focus and Celebration of the Black Man.

AWCDE is a resident company of the August Wilson Center. Founding Artistic Director Greer Reed-Jones called the three guest choreographers "young powerhouses" in the dance community.

"Not only does the show give them a platform to showcase their work, but it gives this young up-and-coming ensemble a chance to spread their wings and give Pittsburgh a chance to see what we are all about . . . our versatility, technical prowess, passion and power," said Reed-Jones. "With not quite two years under our belt I am excited for the community to witness such a rare gem right here in our own hometown."

The Dynamic Men of Dance consists of *Pulse* by **Antonio Brown** (he shares his name with the one of the Pittsburgh Steelers, but his playing ground is Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company). *Pulse* features Ravel's retooled "Bolero" by InsideOut A Cappella. "Pulse is a dynamic and striking work that explores the relationships and inner connections of a community of people," explains Brown. "Set to a rhythmical throbbing score, the music propels the dancers through physical movement shaped by the modern and ballet vocabulary, aimed to push and pull their bodies through space to create an uneasy yet relatable atmosphere for themselves and the audience."

Darrell Grand Moultrie, who appeared on Broadway in *Billy Elliott*, presents *Regality* and *Body and Soul*, the latter of which is based on the hit 1930 song. Moultrie said the AWCDE is "definitely a company to watch."

"These (works) were created to introduce this amazing new company to the dance world in my own way. The work was set to challenge the dancers technically, artistically and physically. They definitely met the challenge and I am positive the audiences will be thrilled by their hard work," said Moultrie.

/next

AWCDE Starts Off the New Year With New Works at The Center /Page 2

Kyle Abraham, of Abraham.In.Motion, offers *Function*, described as “an abstract work inspired by the movement sensibilities of Abraham’s mentor, Kevin Wynn, and hip hop culture that creates a social commentary focused on ownership, relationships and the lifestyle decisions and choices that define us.”

AWCDE is comprised of dancers from Pittsburgh and beyond: Naila Ansari (Buffalo, NY), Kendra Dennard (Detroit, MI), Angela Dice (Somerset, PA), Raymond Ejiofor (Alexandria, VA), Kaylin Horgan (Pittsburgh, PA), Shantelle Jackson (Cleveland, OH), Annalee Traylor (Huntsville, AL) and James Washington (Rochester, NY).

The Dynamic Men of Dance, performances will be held 8 pm Friday, January 21 and 3 pm Sunday, January 23 at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Avenue, Downtown Pittsburgh.

Tickets can be purchased at 412.456.6666, visiting pgharts.org, Box Office at Theater Square or The Center’s box office. Prices for Friday night’s performance are \$30; \$25 and \$20, with discounts are available for students, seniors and members. Sunday is a “Pay-What-You-Can” Performance. Simply pay what you can to be admitted—however, tickets for Sunday’s performance must be purchased at the August Wilson Center on or before January 23. The Center’s box office is open 11 am to 6 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

This presentation of the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble is made possible with the support of the Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Heinz Endowments, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, The Pittsburgh Foundation and many other generous donors.

ATTENTION MEDIA: Hi-res images are available. Please contact Treshea N. Wade, Manager, Marketing & Communications, at 412.338.8734 or twade@AugustWilsonCenter.org for any interview or image requests.

###

About August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Named for Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright and Hill District native August Wilson, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture engages regional and national audiences in its mission of preserving, presenting, interpreting, celebrating and shaping the art, culture and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world.

Located in Downtown Pittsburgh’s Cultural District, the multidisciplinary August Wilson Center is reflective of all aspects of African American culture. The Center’s striking, two-story, green building houses seven exhibition galleries, a 486-seat theater for performances in all disciplines, an education center, a café and gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events. The Center is among a select few African American cultural institutions presenting visual and performing arts, the humanities and educational programs in a state-of-the-art venue.

The August Wilson Center – At The Center of It All!

More information is available on The Center’s website at AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.