

News Release

For Immediate Release #2
September 1, 2004

**DANCE, FASHION, ART, DRAMA -- THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER ANNOUNCES A DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC 2004-2005
SEASON**

PITTSBURGH, PA – With a diverse and unique lineup of national and local artists, **The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh announces its 2004-2005 season.**

The African American Cultural Center 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.

“In programming this season, we strived to focus on creating high-quality experiences, that showcased the interdisciplinary nature of African and African American cultural expression, and that is welcoming to audiences of all ethnic backgrounds,” said Neil Barclay, President & CEO of the African American Cultural Center. “The AACC’s programs will be engaging, entertaining, and thought-provoking.”

The African American Cultural Center kicks off its season September 18th with Philadanco, the Philadelphia Dance Company, at the Byham Theater. Additional dance presentations include Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, October 28 and 29, Ralph Lemon in March 2005, and a co-presentation with the Pittsburgh Dance Council of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, February 15 & 16, 2005.

In November, the AACC presents Fashion Africana, a multi-cultural celebration of design, fashion, music and dance. In May, the AACC welcomes poet Sekou Sundiata, who stages his one-man performance piece, *blessing the boats*.

The AACC is also developing visual arts programming (which it will announce later this fall) to be shown at 937 Liberty Avenue, its temporary works-in-progress space.

The AACC is currently engaged in a capital campaign to raise \$32.7 million for the construction of its own facility, a state-of-the-art, multi-disciplinary venue to be located in downtown Pittsburgh. The Center is currently scheduled to open in 2007.

African American Cultural Center’s 2004-2005 Season

PHILADANCO
September 18, 2004

Byham Theater

8:00pm

The celebrated Philadelphia Dance Company performs for one night only, with a program featuring *We Too Dance: African American Men In Dance*. As a part of their Pittsburgh engagement, Philadanco will participate in a number of educational programs including a free matinee performance for students (September 17, 10am, Byham Theater). Philadanco will also

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lead two masterclasses (September 17, 2:30pm at the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts and September 18, 10am, at the Byham Theater).

RONALD K. BROWN/EVIDENCE

October 29 & 30, 2004 CAPA High School Theater 8:00pm

Ronald K. Brown's EVIDENCE continues to captivate critics and audiences worldwide, with its signature style of kinetic storytelling through African contemporary dance. In these two performances, EVIDENCE presents *Come-Ye*, a stirring piece co-commissioned by the African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh, and inspired by the music and legacy of Nina Simone. The program also includes *Upside Down* and *Grace*. As a part of this engagement, EVIDENCE will lead two community residency activities, including a masterclass and demonstration.

FASHION AFRICANA

November 7, 2004 Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh Music Hall Foyer Time 5:30pm

Produced by Utopia Model Agency, the fourth annual Fashion Africana is more than a fashion show—it's a global celebration of design, dance and music. Unique, exciting, and simply stunning, Fashion Africana sets out to broaden the standard of beauty with models and designers that reflect the global, multicultural environment. This event will also pay tribute to Sudanese refugees who have found a home in Pittsburgh. The story of "The Lost Boys of Sudan" was the subject of a recent documentary.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Co-presented with The Pittsburgh Dance Council
February 15 & 16, 2005 Benedum Center 7:30pm

The magnificent Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater (Judith Jamison, Artistic Director, Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director) is dedicated to promoting the uniqueness of African-American cultural expression with unparalleled grace, passion and artistry. This season, the Company will bring its exciting and varied repertory to the Pittsburgh stage once again. Experience the vitality, beauty and joy of this internationally acclaimed ambassador of American culture and rejoice in the indomitable spirit of The Ailey.

RALPH LEMON

March 19, 2005 Byham Theater 8:00pm

Unconventional. Post-modern. Intriguing. Brilliant. The work of choreographer and director Ralph Lemon is often difficult to categorize, but always provocative. His latest work, "Come Home Charley Patton" is the final part of his ten-year performance project, *The Geography Trilogy*, and has been co-commissioned by the African American Cultural Center. For each part of *The Geography Trilogy*, Lemon poses specific questions to direct his process, and has traveled the globe in search of answers. Part 1: *Geography* began with his thoughts about African and post-African connections to his life. Part 2: *Tree* questioned a concept of belief systems and how that might generate an art aesthetic. For this final part, Lemon investigates how different generations remember the same critical events and places.

SEKOU SUNDIATA

May 5, 6, 7, 2005 City Theater Times TBA

Prolific poet Sekou Sundiata's *blessing the boats*, is based on deeply personal events, but speaks universal truths all the same. In it, Sundiata recalls the story of his life threatening illness, kidney failure and organ transplant. The one-man performance explores ideas about, friendships, art, life and death through a blend of poetry, music, video, movement, and monologue. Sundiata describes *blessing the boats* (whose title is taken from a poem by

