



US Department of State and Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) announce *DanceMotion USA*sm 2012 launch event on Jan 12th at Dance Place in Washington, DC

International tour dates set for Jazz Tap Ensemble, Rennie Harris Puremovement, Seán Curran Company, and Trey McIntyre Project

Brooklyn, NY/Jan 4, 2012—The US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) announced today the international tour dates for the four American dance companies taking part in the second season of *DanceMotion USA*sm. This vibrant cultural diplomacy program shares the rich dance culture of The United States with international audiences through performance and cultural exchange. This season’s participating companies—Rennie Harris Puremovement, Séan Curran Company, Jazz Tap Ensemble, and Trey McIntyre Project—will tour four world regions beginning in March, 2012 (tour dates and regions below).

A **launch event** for this season’s program will take place on **January 12 at 3pm at Dance Place in Washington, DC (3225 8th St NE)**. The event will outline the tours and program objectives, featuring short performances by each company and engaging underserved youth from the Washington, DC metropolitan area. A post-program ‘meet the artists’ reception will be held at 4:30pm. Members of the media are invited to attend both events.

This season’s participating *DanceMotion USA*sm companies will tour as follows:

- Rennie Harris Puremovement, a hip-hop dance company based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will tour in Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinian Territories from Mar 9—April 6
- Seán Curran Company, a contemporary dance company based in New York, New York, will tour in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan from April 5—May 3
- Jazz Tap Ensemble, based in Los Angeles, California, will tour in Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Zimbabwe from April 9—May 7
- Trey McIntyre Project, a contemporary dance troupe based in Boise, Idaho, will tour in China, South Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam from May 5—June 3

*DanceMotion USA*sm builds on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s vision of “smart power” democracy. It embraces the full use of diplomatic tools, in this case dance, to engage people and create opportunities for greater understanding.



BAM

The success of the *DanceMotion USAsm* 2010 pilot season led to the addition of a fourth US company for the upcoming season, thereby enhancing its reach to global audiences, especially in underserved areas. It will also include a US-based cultural exchange, in which an international dance ensemble will travel to the US to share its culture through dance as well as experience American culture firsthand.

"DanceMotion USAsm is American diplomacy in motion," said Ann Stock, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs. "It connects people through contemporary dance to one another. These artists are citizen diplomats and use the common language of dance to engage with people in communities throughout the world."

BAM President Karen Brooks Hopkins said, "BAM is honored to have been selected by the US Department of State as the sole grantee and producer of this valuable program. We also appreciate the additional support of J.P. Morgan, Pfizer, and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation on behalf of this project. BAM has a long history—since 1861—of bringing internationally renowned performing arts to our home in Brooklyn. *DanceMotion USAsm* gives us the opportunity to send a BAM program out into the world."

BAM Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo said, "BAM is deeply committed to the process of cultural exchange and enrichment through the arts. *DanceMotion USAsm* has given us the opportunity to broaden our institutional mission and share the story of contemporary American dance with global audiences. We are honored to work once again with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs on this important endeavor."

DanceMotion USAsm will again offer innovative, high-caliber artistic work to global audiences that might not otherwise have access to performances and related educational activities from established American artists. Companies will perform and participate in outreach events, workshops, master classes, media interviews, and discussions with international artists and local audiences in a wide variety of venues and settings—all of which serve to deepen engagement between international and US artists and audiences. This year's program will also include additional activities for in-country partners and venues, including arts management workshops created in collaboration with DeVos Institute for Arts Management.

DanceMotion USAsm is designed and funded by ECA and produced by BAM with additional support from J.P. Morgan, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, and Pfizer Inc.

"Pfizer is proud to partner with BAM once again to support the educational components of the *DanceMotion USAsm* program," said Amy W. Schulman, senior vice president and general counsel for Pfizer, and also a BAM board member. "The public-private partnership that the first round of cultural exchanges provided was inspiring and we are pleased to continue Pfizer's support for the expansion of BAM's work."

"Providing funding through public-private partnerships lends credibility to public sector activities to promote mutual understanding," says Margaret Ayers, President of the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. "Further, it serves to demonstrate to other foundations that there are powerful ways to support cultural engagement. We are extremely proud of our role in supporting translation and dissemination of *DanceMotion USAsm* on the internet, thereby expanding the accessibility of this important program. The Robert Sterling Clark Foundation's support of public-private partnerships with agencies such as the Department of State gives us the opportunity to acknowledge, promote, and enlarge the Foundation's role in funding international arts and cultural engagement on behalf of our country and its artists." The Robert Sterling Clark Foundation has helped support the two *DanceMotion USAsm* projects in partnership with the State Department.

The *DanceMotion USAsm* pilot program was built around performance tours in early 2010 by US companies Urban Bush Women; ODC/Dance; and Evidence, A Dance Company. It was a model cultural exchange initiative and the first major international tour of dance supported by the Department of State in more than 20 years. It reached global audiences of more than 15,000 people in tours to 16 cities in nine countries within three world regions—Southeast Asia, South America, and Africa. The program offered multiple opportunities for exchange among artists, audiences, and cultures through 21 performances and 104 cultural exchange activities. Additional opportunities to follow the experiences of the touring companies were provided through a dedicated website and blog. Visit dancemotionusa.org to view a video retrospective of the pilot program.

The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs** (ECA) promotes international mutual understanding through a wide range of academic, cultural, professional, and sports exchange programs. ECA exchanges engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders in many fields in the United States and in more than 160 countries. Alumni of ECA exchanges comprise over one million people around the world, including more than 50 Nobel Laureates and more than 300 current or former heads of state and government.

Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, music-theater, opera, and film. BAM presents leading national and international artists and companies in its annual Spring Season and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival each fall. Founded in 1983, the Next Wave is one of the world's most important festivals of contemporary performing arts. BAM Rose Cinemas features new, independent film releases as well as BAMcinémathèque—a curated, daily repertory film program.

BAM also serves New York City's diverse population through a weekend concert series in BAMcafé, community events, literary series, and a wide variety of educational programs. BAM, America's oldest performing arts center, has presented performances since 1861, and attracts an audience of more than 600,000 people each year. The institution is led by President Karen Brooks Hopkins and Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo—each has been associated with BAM for more than 25 years.

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