



WHAT: *The 9th Annual Metro DC Dance Awards*
WHEN: Monday, September 14, 2009, 7:30 pm,
WHERE: **The Terrace Theatre**/The Kennedy Center, Washington DC
COST: \$30 general admission/\$15 tickets available with DancePass
INFO: (202) 778-1190 or www.dancemetrod.org

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Cheles Rhynes

The Kick-Off Dance Social Event Of This Year's Dance Season! 9th Annual Metro DC Dance Awards with the DC Cowboys, Martha Graham, and more!

Washington, DC – Monday, September 14 – Celebrate the best of DC, Maryland, and Virginia dance at the **9th Annual Metro DC Dance Awards (The Awards)**. Presented by Dance/MetroDC and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, *The Awards* honors the region's home-grown talent, while an illustrious cast of past award recipients and local favorites entertain with styles from hip hop to tango to ballet.

Frederick, MD native **Richard Move** as the Grande Dame of the Dance herself, **Martha Graham**, will host the evening which gives distinction to artists in thirteen categories, including Outstanding Youth Performance, Emerging Choreographer, and Outstanding Overall Production in Concert Dance. Ms. Brooke Kidd, founder and director of Joe's Movement Emporium in Mount Rainier, MD will be honored with the Alan M. Kriegsman Award, and the Pola Nirenska Awards in Lifetime Achievement will also be presented. A complete list of nominees is available at www.dancemetrod.org.

This year's festivities begin with a VIP reception and Silent Auction including a toast to this year's finalists at 600 Restaurant, beginning at 4:45pm. Following the reception, some awards will be presented at a **Millennium Stage Prelude** at 6pm, with dance performances by the **DC Cowboys, Maryland Youth Ballet, and Urban Impact**. *The Awards* take place at the **Terrace Theater** at 7:30pm. Tickets are just \$30, or \$15 with a *DancePass*. (available at www.dancemetrod.org). Tickets available online at www.kennedy-center.org or Kennedy Center Instant Charge at (202) 467-4600.

The Awards ceremony includes exciting performances by:

DC Cowboys

The scintillating stars of NBC's hit show *America's Got Talent*, the heel-stompin', high-energy, crowd-rousing DC Cowboys will make their debut at the Kennedy Center. For the past 15 years, the dance company for gay men has performed all over the world with their "Brokeback meets Broadway" style dance numbers, spanning all musical genres from sexy club mixes to musical theater to contemporary country.

(more)

Furia Flamenca

Bringing the ferocity and passion of flamenco to the stage, Furia Flamenca combines the dance form's gypsy heritage with modern flamenco choreography to create an elegant balance of motion and energy. Founded by director Estela Velez in January 2003, Furia Flamenca has taken flamenco, ballet, Middle Eastern, modern, and tap dance and melded them into a sumptuous feast for the eyes.

Life, Rhythm, Move Project

Founded by Aysha Upchurch in 2007, LRMP is dedicated to affecting positive social change through the performing arts, specifically dance. Through hip hop, they take audiences beyond negative stereotypes of the genre and present the rich history of the culture. LRMP received a Metro DC Dance Award last year for Outstanding Group Performance and Upchurch received the Founder's Award for Innovation in Dance.

ARKA Ballet

Under the direction of Artistic Director Roudolf Kharatian and Associate Director Jonathan Jordan, ARKA Ballet celebrates 10 years of performances, including rarely-seen gems of classical ballet repertoire. The company performs in the Greater Washington region and has toured internationally. A principal dancer with the National Ballet of Armenia from 1967 to 1991, Kharatian has choreographed over 100 original works ranging from avant-garde/experimental to classical. Jordan is a recipient of the 2008 Metro DC Dance Award for Outstanding Individual Performance and performs with the Washington Ballet as well as Christopher Wheeldon's Morphoses.

Richard Move

Maryland native and Virginia Commonwealth University graduate Richard Move is a Director, Choreographer, Performing Artist, Filmmaker and Artistic Director of *MoveOpolis!* and *Move It! Productions*. Move has won accolades and admirers worldwide with his highly developed, entertaining and academically researched portrayal of the mother of Contemporary Dance. *Martha @ ...* was featured on the PBS Television program *City Arts - The Best of Dance* and received a 2000 Emmy Award for "Fine Outstanding Arts Program", the BBC World News Program *Arts Express* and the BBC Documentary *Bourne to Dance*. *Martha @ ...* has toured extensively both domestically and internationally.

The Metro DC Dance Awards is the only annual opportunity in Metropolitan DC for artists and audiences to recognize excellence in the dance field. *Dance/MetroDC*, a branch office of *Dance/USA*, the national service organization for professional dance, became the lead organization for MDCDA in 2006. **Dance/MetroDC** produces *The Awards*, along with other programs throughout the year that serve and engage the region's dancers, dance entities and their audiences, including *Dance Is The Answer*, *DancePass*, and *Forward Five*. Visit www.dancemetrodcc.org for more information.

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