

Renowned Philadanco dance group coming to campus for daylong residency

3/05/07

Alfred University will host the internationally famous Philadelphia Dance Company - Philadanco -- on Saturday, March 24, through the auspices of a NYS DanceForce Grant. Activity begins at 11 a.m. in Room 300, Miller Performing Arts Center, with an hour-and-a-half master class followed by a lecture/demonstration from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. Both programs are open to the public free of charge. The NYS DanceForce is a statewide network of dance activists committed to increasing the quantity and quality of dance activity across the state of New York. DanceForce supports the AU visit with funding from the NYS Council on the Arts Dance Program, Altria Group, Inc. and the National Endowment of the Arts. Dance Magazine describes Philadanco's dancers as "a miracle of skill and energy. They work in a range of idioms most companies don't even try to possess. A company that can do more than just anything. It can represent the possibilities of human spirit through dance." The Philadelphia Dance Company is celebrating 37 years of providing exceptional dance performances and training to its many communities throughout the United States and abroad. Since its inception in 1970, Philadanco has had a significant impact on the dance world. As a cultural ambassador representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia, its artistic direction and renowned national and international guest choreographers have developed a reputation of producing a dance repertory with passion, power, skill and diversity. Over the 37 years, a stellar faculty (handpicked by Joan Myers Brown, founder of Philadanco) has trained over 4,500 dancers in a comprehensive program achieving the highest level of technical skills in dance and performance. The unique blend of dance styles of Philadanco, and its roster of 50-60 concert performances and 45 residencies annually has made them one of the most sought after modern companies in the United States. In 1981 the company was one of only 15 organizations awarded the prestigious National Choreography Planning Grant. This year, Philadanco had the pleasure of performing at venues such as Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and the Joyce Theater in New York City and has just returned from a noteworthy tour, spending the entire month of March 2006 in Germany, Luxembourg and Italy.