

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Note: Photos available at <http://mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/media>

**MCCALLUM THEATRE'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHOREOGRAPHY FESTIVAL  
PRESENTS THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO SAVION GLOVER, TONY  
AWARD-WINNING CHOREOGRAPHER, TAP DANCER AND PRODUCER.**

Palm Desert, CA - McCallum Theatre Education will present exciting original choreography by dance makers from across the nation at the **20th Annual Choreography Festival**. This one of a kind festival, scheduled for **Saturday, November 11th at 7pm** and **Sunday, November 12th at 4pm** continues to promote dance as an art form by creating a venue for emerging and established choreographers and developing new dance audiences. The Festival features a choreography competition in two divisions, educational opportunities including workshops and residencies, and honors those who have made outstanding contributions to dance through a Lifetime Achievement Award.

This year's Finalists, selected by a distinguished Festival screening panel from 136 submissions, come from all over the country and will perform before an audience and a panel of judges. Over \$26,000.00 in cash awards are up for grabs. Finalists include festival favorites as well as a large number of choreographers new to the Festival whose works promise to engage, provoke and entertain.

"Our Choreography Festival continues to engage and expand its reach. Over the years we've earned a great name thanks to our genuine dedication to nurture and support emerging artists, and the desert communities have wholeheartedly embraced this event as an annual highlight," says Kajsa Thuresson-Frary, Festival producer and McCallum's long-time Director of Education. "We are privileged to work with a dynamic Festival team, including Festival founder Shea New, and enjoy the support of a dedicated group of sponsors and volunteers. Turning twenty is quite thrilling."

Choreographers/companies featured in the Professional Division on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> are Suzanne Haag/Eugene Ballet Company (Eugene, OR), Michael Nickerson-Rossi/Nickerson-Rossi Dance (West Chester, PA), Nicole Berger/Company Rhome (Los Angeles, CA), Gregory Dolbashian/The DASH Ensemble (New York, NY), Viktor Kabaniaev/Kabaniaev and Dancers (San Francisco, CA), David Morse/Cincinnati Ballet (Cincinnati, OH), Vanessa Owen & Gavin Stewart/Stewart Owen Dance (Asheville, NC), Jenn Freeman/Freemove Dance (New York, NY), Mari Meade/Mari Meade Dance Collective (New York, NY) and Manuel Vignoulle/M/motions (New York, NY).

Choreographers/companies featured in the Pre-professional Division on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> are Conny Mathot (Los Angeles, CA), Adrian Aguirre/Uno Mas (Dallas,

TX), Mady Beighley (Lindon, UT), Rex Wheeler/Maple Youth Ballet (Irvine, CA), Nicole Hagen/Chapman University (Orange, CA), Ami Mattison/Mattidance (Los Angeles, CA), Hexagon Dance Collective (Los Angeles, CA), Jacob Montoya/Hawkins Contemporary Jazz Company (Folsom, CA), Megan Pulfer/Emergent Dance Company (Huntington Beach, CA), Amanda Garcia/Chapman University (Orange, CA), Jenn Freeman/Miami Dance Collective (Miami, FL), Justin Pham/USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance (Los Angeles, CA) and Summer Cantrell/Maple Youth Ballet (Irvine, CA).

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Tony Award- winning choreographer, tap dancer, and producer, Savion Glover who graciously will accept the award in person at the Saturday November 11 evening performance. His Broadway and Film credits include *The Tap Dance Kid*, *Black & Blue*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Bring in 'da Noise Bring in 'da Funk*, the movie *Tap* with Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis, Jr. and Spike Lee's *Bamboozled*. His choreography can be seen in the Academy Award Winning 2006 Warner Brothers' *Happy Feet* and *Happy Feet 2*, and most recently in the acclaimed Broadway musical, *Shuffle Along*. Mr. Glover has enjoyed dancing on concert stages throughout the world with legendary jazz musicians such as Jack DeJohnette, Roy Haynes and McCoy Tyner. In his hometown of Newark, New Jersey, Savion Glover established The HooFeRzCLuB School For Tap as well as Savion Glover Productions, a team-based organization that seeks to provide quality production and project management services for tap dancers. Production credits for Savion Glover Productions include *Classical Savion®*, Savion Glover's Bare Soundz, *Visions of a Bible*, Savion Glover's SOLO IN TiME, Savion Glover's SoLE Sanctuary, *Invitations to a Dancer*, Savion Glover's STePz, Savion Glover and The Otherz, and Savion Glover's Bare Soundz appearance on *Dancing with the Stars*.

The Choreography Festival also includes dynamic outreach projects, among them: **the East Valley Dance Project**, now in its 11th year and The 7th Annual **Studio Project**. These projects give dancers from local studios and students from Desert Mirage High and Toro Canyon Middle Schools in Thermal an opportunity to explore and create with professional choreographers. Participants in the projects will learn an original piece of choreography and perform on the McCallum stage in conjunction with the Division II performance on November 12th at 4:00pm.

I felt great collaborating with my peers and dancing on stage with East Valley Dance Project. The greatest highlights were seeing a diverse group of people dance at the Choreography Festival and people seeing me for me. I learned how to express myself and that dance is for everyone.

- **Freddy Pereira, Desert Mirage High School, Grade 12**

Tickets for the Division I performance of The Choreography Festival on Saturday, November 11, 7:00 p.m. are \$42/37/27/17. Tickets for the Division II performance on Sunday, November 12, 4:00 p.m. are \$32/27/22/14. Tickets are available now at the McCallum Theatre Box Office by calling 760-340-ARTS, online at [www.mccallumtheatre.com](http://www.mccallumtheatre.com) or by walk-up.

The McCallum Theatre Box Office is located at 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260. The McCallum Theatre accepts payment by cash, personal check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

*The McCallum Theatre Box Office, its phone center and website, are the **only** authorized outlets for tickets to performances presented at the Theatre. Tickets purchased from any other sources, such as brokers or secondary market websites, are purchased at consumer's own risk and cannot be guaranteed as valid.*

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