



For Immediate Release

**BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS
WORLD PREMIERE OF “BLIND DATE” AT ALEXANDER
KASSER THEATER AT MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 23 & 24**

Bill T. Jones has never been one to flinch at challenges; instead, he specializes in them. Most recent example: “Blind Date,” which receives its world premiere at Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State University, September 21, 23 & 24. In it, Jones again artistically pricks our political, spiritual and social consciousness and consciences.

Using an original score by the Company’s music director Daniel Bernard Roumain and an ever-changing multi-media set by Bjorn Amelan with projected film images by Peter Nigrini, and lighting by Robert Wierzel, the 90-minute dance/theater piece asks alternately bold, sensitive and subtle questions about patriotism in an increasingly dangerous world. What does it mean to be patriotic? Whom does patriotism serve? The meaning of honor, sacrifice and duty are explored in this time when spiritual self-righteousness and nationalistic fervor replace 18th century ideals of reason and humanity. Drawing on the multi-cultural and international backgrounds of his dancers, Jones probes their past and present experiences and changing ideas about surviving in our current environment, poetically and theatrically transforming and endowing them with universal relevance.

MORE

**BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY
ADD ONE**

After its New Jersey engagement, “Blind Date” will be seen at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, November 18 & 19, followed by shows at the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, January 12 & 13; Flynn Theatre for the Performing Arts in Burlington, VT on January 15; University of Massachusetts Amherst Fine Arts Center in Amherst, MA on February 2; Quick Center at Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT on February 4; Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI on March 4; Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI on March 7; Northrop Auditorium, Minneapolis, MN on March 10; Benedum Center, Pittsburgh, PA on March 25; Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Denver, CO, March 31; Vilar Center, Beaver Creek, CO on April 2; and the McCarter Theatre, Princeton, NJ on May 16. (Please see attached schedule for tour dates of other repertory.)

This has been a banner year for Bill T. Jones. In addition to being personally awarded three major honors—the 2005 Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award, Harlem Renaissance Award and the Wexner Prize—his company recently received a \$210,000 grant from the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone to help it to expand its staff while it seeks a permanent performance and rehearsal facility in Harlem. In July, the Company moved its administrative offices from 853 Broadway to 120th Street and Lenox Avenue as a first step in that direction.

The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company was founded by Jones and Zane in 1982, eleven years after the two artists had begun collaborating and working as a duo. Since that time it has been honored with innumerable awards including several New York Dance and Performance Awards (a.k.a. “Bessies”). In 1999, it was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance in London. The Company, one of the most well-traveled in the world, has been represented in and the subject of many documentaries, most recently “Free to Dance,” produced by the American Dance Festival.

MORE

**BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY
ADD TWO**

In addition to this year's honors, Jones was the recipient of the prestigious Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize (2003), a MacArthur Fellowship (1994) and a Dance Magazine Award (1993), among others. In 2000, The Dance Heritage Coalition named him "An Irreplaceable Dance Treasure." Jones has received choreographic commissions from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Boston Ballet, Berlin Opera Ballet and the Lyon Opera Ballet, where he was also resident choreographer for four years. His memoir, "Last Night on Earth," was published by Pantheon Books in 1995.

The curtain for all performances of "Blind Date" at Montclair State University's Alexander Kasser Theater is at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$35 and are available at the box office, online at www.montclair.edu/kasser or by calling 973-655-5112. Alexander Kasser Theater is located north of the intersection of College Avenue and Red Hawk Road on the campus of Montclair State University, which is located at Valley Road and Normal Avenue in Montclair, NJ.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE.

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Lead commissioning support for "Blind Date" was provided by Montclair State University, Office of Arts and Cultural Programming with additional commissioning support provided by Aaron Davis Hall, Inc., Harlem's Center for the Performing Arts.

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BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY
ITINERARY
September 2005 – May 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Program</u>
September 21, 23 & 24	Montclair, NJ	Alexander Kasser Theater	Blind Date (Montclair State Univ.)
October 29	Columbus, OH	Wexner Center	As I was Saying...
November 17–19	Washington, DC	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	As I was Saying... & Blind Date
January 12 & 13	Hanover, NH	The Hopkins Center (Dartmouth College)	Blind Date
January 15	Burlington, VT	Flynn Theatre for the Performing Arts	Blind Date
January 20 & 21	Berkeley, CA	Zellerbach Hall	As I was Saying... & Another Evening
February 2	Amherst, MA	Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst Fine Arts Center	Blind Date
February 4	Fairfield, CT	Quick Center for the Arts (Fairfield University)	Blind Date
February 21, 23, 25	New York, NY	Skirball Center	TBA
March 4	Milwaukee, WI	Alverno College	Blind Date
March 7	Madison, WI	Overture Center for the Arts	Blind Date
March 10	Minneapolis, MN	Northrop Auditorium (Univ. of Minneapolis)	Blind Date
March 25	Pittsburgh, PA	Benedum Center	Blind Date
March 31	Denver, CO	Newman Center for the Performing Arts	Blind Date
April 2	Beaver Creek, CO	Vilar Center for the Arts	Blind Date
May 16	Princeton, NJ	McCarter Theatre	Blind Date

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