



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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MEDIA ALERT
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For Immediate Release

EBONY REPERTORY THEATRE

PRESENTS

AN INTIMATE EVENING OF DANCE, DEMONSTRATION AND DIALOGUE

WITH

COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET

AT THE NATE HOLDEN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

(March 12, 2008) On Monday, April 7, 2008 please join us for an intimate evening of dance, demonstration and dialogue with **Complexions Contemporary Ballet**. Come and enjoy an insider's look at one of America's most dynamic dance companies prior to their return engagement at the Music Center April 11 through 13, 2008. This evening will also honor one of America's irreplaceable treasures, world renowned choreographer, Donald McKayle. This intimate evening of dance, demonstration and dialogue takes place on Monday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, one of Los Angeles' newest, state-of-the-art metropolitan theaters, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased online at www.ebonyrep.org or by mailing your check payable to ERT to: ERT c/o NHPAC 4718 W. Washington Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016. For more information, call ERT at 323-964-9768. Parking is free.

This inaugural dance presentation at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center (NHPAC) is a collaboration between Ebony Repertory Theatre, resident company and operator of NHPAC, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and Dance at the Music Center. The evening's program includes a performance tribute and presentation to honoree Donald McKayle, followed by dance demonstration and dialogue with **Complexions Contemporary Ballet**, and Co-Artistic Directors Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson.

Donald McKayle, dancer, choreographer, and the recipient of honors and awards in every aspect of his illustrious career, has been named by the Dance Heritage Coalition "one of America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures: the first 100." His choreographic masterworks, considered modern dance classics, *Games*, *Rainbow Round My Shoulder*, *District Storyville*, and *Songs of the Disinherited* are performed around the world. He has choreographed over seventy works for



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dance companies in the United States, Canada, Israel, Europe, and South America. In April 2005, Donald McKayle was honored at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and presented with a medal as a Master of African American Choreography. He is currently Professor of Dance at UC Irvine.
www.dance.arts.uci.edu/faculty/bio/mckayle

Complexions Contemporary Ballet, founded in 1994, celebrates excellence in dance, provokes thought, and inspires impassioned performance with the finest dancers in a full range of disciplines. **Complexions** performs for audiences worldwide, educates, cultivates talent, and champions diversity as America's original multi-cultural dance company. Co-Artistic Directors, Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson both danced for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.
www.complexionscontemporaryballet.org

Ebony Repertory Theatre (ERT) has been founded to create, develop, nurture, and sustain a world-class professional theatre rooted in the experience of the African Diaspora and shaped by a dynamic perspective that incorporates an understanding of, and respect for, the unique African American journey to freedom. ERT manages and operates the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center.
www.ebonyrep.org

Dance at the Music Center is currently in its fifth season of bringing the art of dance to Southern California with a mission to provide significant ballet and contemporary dance experiences for audiences of all ages. **Complexions** returns to the Center, after wowing audiences in 2001. Opening night's performance will feature the Southern California premiere of *Loose Change*, a dramatic solo created for Richardson by actor Taye Diggs and the West Coast premiere of Rhoden's *Chapters*, set to the timeless music of Marvin Gaye. The following two performances will feature *Pretty Gritty Suite*, a homage to the soulful music of Nina Simone. This program also features Richardson in the graceful solo, *Lament* and *Bound* by guest choreographer Nicolo Forti. Both programs include Rhoden's *Dear Frederic* set to Chopin and *Moody Booty Blues*. Tickets can be purchased at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion box office, or 213-365-3500. For information, call 213-972-0711 or visit musiccenter.org

ABOUT DCA

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) serves as a leader to generate and support high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA also advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles



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(C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. It provides arts and cultural programming in numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and several arts and education programs for young people. The Department operates two historic monuments, directs public art projects, and manages the City's Arts Development Fee, Art Collection, and Murals Program. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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