

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL TAYLOR AMERICAN MODERN DANCE
CELEBRATES LEGENDARY CHOREOGRAPHER
DONALD MCKAYLE

PTAMD OFFERS MEMORIAL PERFORMANCE
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

NEW YORK, August 8, 2019 – Paul Taylor American Modern Dance (PTAMD) returns to Lincoln Center for its annual Season at the David H. Koch Theater from October 29 to November 17, featuring the Paul Taylor Dance Company (PTDC). **Paul Taylor: Celebrate the Dancemaker** honors the legacy of founder Paul Taylor, who died in 2018.

On Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m., in partnership with three world-class organizations, PTAMD will celebrate internationally acclaimed choreographer Donald McKayle, who died in April of 2018, by bringing three of his most significant works to the stage. Dayton Contemporary Dance Company will perform *Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder* (1959), Juilliard Dance will perform *Crossing the Rubicon* (2017), and Ronald K. Brown/ Evidence will perform *Songs of the Disinherited* (1972). This memorial celebration performance of Mr. McKayle is being offered free to the public. Starting Monday, August 12, free tickets can be obtained at www.boxoffice.dance, at the Koch Box Office or by calling 212.496.0600. There is a four ticket maximum per person.

“When Donald McKayle died in early 2018, it was Mr. Taylor’s wish that there should be a tribute during our Season to honor this master choreographer who was also his close friend,” said Taylor Foundation Artistic Director Michael Novak. “I am excited to make this wish a reality and celebrate Mr. McKayle and his important body of work.”

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In dance, Mr. McKayle received the Capezio Award, Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award, American Dance Guild Award and a Living Legend Award from the National Black Arts Festival, among many other honors. Mr. McKayle was the first black man to both direct and choreograph major Broadway musicals, including the Tony Award-winners *Raisin* (1973) and *Sophisticated Ladies* (1981). He also worked extensively in television and film.

PTAMD performances are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. The ICONS: Taylor/Katz performance will be on Monday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$175 and are available at www.boxoffice.dance, at the Koch Box Office or by calling 212.496.0600. For the Gala Performance and Dinner at the Koch Theater on October 30 at 6:30 p.m., please call 646.214.5814 or visit ptamd.org/gala for ticket prices; regular price tickets for the performance only are also available through the box office.

About Paul Taylor and PTAMD:

Paul Taylor (1930-2018) was the last of the pantheon of choreographers who defined the distinctly American art of modern dance. A virtuoso dancer for 20 years, Mr. Taylor turned exclusively to choreography in 1974; the dance that followed, *Esplanade*, was hailed an instant classic. His repertoire of 147 dances contains cogent observations on life's complexities and society's thorniest issues. They are performed by the Paul Taylor Dance Company, Taylor 2 and ballet and modern dance companies the world over. In 2015 he established PAUL TAYLOR AMERICAN MODERN DANCE to bring to New York's Lincoln Center – in addition to his own repertoire – masterworks of the past by renowned artists, and works by the next generation of choreographers creating on his Company. A Kennedy Center honoree, Mr. Taylor was the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary, *Dancemaker*, and authored the acclaimed autobiography, *Private Domain*. He achieved countless accolades, including two of our nation's highest artistic distinctions: the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts. Mr. Taylor chose dancer Michael Novak to succeed him as Artistic Director; Mr. Novak assumed those duties in Summer 2018.

About Donald McKayle:

Donald McKayle (1930-2018) was named “one of America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures: the first 100” by the Dance Heritage Coalition. His work entered the repertoire of Paul Taylor American Modern Dance when Dayton Contemporary Dance Company performed *Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder* during PTAMD'S 2015 Lincoln Center Season. On Broadway, he received Tony Award nominations for Direction and Choreography for the 1973 Tony-winning Best Musical, *Raisin*. He also garnered Tony nominations as choreographer for *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Doctor Jazz*, *A Time for Singing* and *Golden Boy*. He received an Emmy nomination for the television special, *Free to Be... You and Me*. His film work included *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *The Great White Hope* and

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The Jazz Singer. In dance, Mr. McKayle received the Capezio Award, Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award, American Dance Guild Award and a Living Legend Award from the National Black Arts Festival, among many other honors. In 2005, he was honored as a Master of African American Choreography at the Kennedy Center. A television documentary on his life and work, *Heartbeats of a Dance Maker*, aired on PBS, and his autobiography, *Transcending Boundaries: My Dancing Life*, was published by Routledge. Mr. McKayle was Professor of Dance at the University of California, Irvine for 36 years.

About Dayton Contemporary Dance Company:

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company was founded in 1968 to create performance opportunities for dancers of color. 50+ years later, it remains rooted in the African American experience, committed to the development of diverse movement artists on the global stage. Most recently DCDC performed in Shanghai China, Kazakhstan, and with the Bolshoi in Moscow, Russia. Co-winners of the 2016 NYC Bessie Award for Outstanding Revival for their work performed at Lincoln Center presented by Paul Taylor American Modern Dance. Artistic Director Debbie Blunden-Diggs continues the company's long legacy with fresh new dance works by top choreographers, including Donald Byrd, Ronen Koresh and Kiesha Lalama.

About Juilliard's Dance Division:

Now under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack, Juilliard Dance aims to create true contemporary dancers—trained equally in classical ballet and modern dance. Established in 1951 by William Schuman during his tenure as president of Juilliard, with the guidance of founding division director Martha Hill, Juilliard became the first major teaching institution to combine equal instruction in both contemporary and ballet techniques. Each year 24 new dancers are accepted into the four-year BFA program. Each fall every class has the opportunity to work with established choreographers in premiere dances as part of the New Dances performances. Recent commissions include works by Bryan Arias, Roy Assaf, Stefanie Batten Bland, Nelly van Bommel, Peter Chu, Gentian Doda, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, and Marcus Jarrell Willis. Spring performances give dancers the opportunity to perform in established works from repertory. Recent repertory performances included works by Nacho Duato, William Forsythe, Martha Graham, Jiří Kylián, Bill T. Jones, José Limón, Crystal Pite, Paul Taylor and Twyla Tharp. Juilliard Dance alumni include, among many others, the choreographers and directors Robert Battle, Pina Bausch, Jessica Lang, Lar Lubovitch, Andrea Miller, Ohad Naharin and Paul Taylor. The Juilliard Dance Division is the proud recipient of the 2015 Capezio Award and is the first educational institution to receive this honor.

About Ronald K. Brown/ Evidence

Founded by Ronald K. Brown in 1985 and based in Brooklyn, New York, Evidence, A Dance Company focuses on the seamless integration of traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word. Through work, Evidence provides a unique view of human struggles, tragedies, and triumphs. Brown uses movement as a way to reinforce the importance of community in African American culture and to acquaint audiences with the beauty of traditional African forms and rhythms. He is an advocate for the growth of the African American dance community and is instrumental in encouraging young dancers to choreograph and to develop careers in dance.