

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AXIS DANCE COMPANY BRINGS “PHYSICALLY INTEGRATED” DANCE TO
THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE NOVEMBER 19 & 20**

Prepare to Leave All Preconceptions at the Door as AXIS Presents the World’s Most Acclaimed and Innovative
Ensemble of Performers With and Without Disabilities

CHICAGO — AXIS Dance Company, one of the world’s most acclaimed and innovative ensembles featuring performers with and without disabilities, will change the way audiences think about dance and the capabilities of the human body with two spectacular performances at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU), 50 E. Congress Parkway, Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and start at \$30, available online at www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium, by phone at (800) 982-2787 or in-person at ATRU’s Box Office.



AXIS Dance Company was founded in 1987, and since its inception as a local California Bay Area dance company, it has become a jewel of contemporary dance and disability culture. AXIS has paved the way for a powerful contemporary dance form known as “physically integrated” dance. Now in its third decade, AXIS continues to challenge traditional dance and incorporates dancers with disabilities, a community which historically has virtually been excluded from the art form.

According to The New York Times, “AXIS’s work instructs the viewer in how to appreciate it, and

the lesson is delivered with cogent force: Sympathy is irrelevant,” while the Chicago Tribune says “Audiences unaccustomed to seeing such inventive movement generated from what could be considered limitation may find themselves re-evaluating their own ideas of artistic perfection.”

Currently under the artistic direction of Judith Smith, the company has commissioned works by such movement innovators as David Dorfman, Alex Ketley, Stephen Petronio, Bill T. Jones, Joe Goode, Joanna Haigood, Sonya Delwaide, Victoria Marks, Ann Carlson and Margaret Jenkins. AXIS’ own choreographers have created numerous repertory works, three evening-length works and two works for young audiences. AXIS’ full repertory now includes more than 75 works.

AXIS has performed to critical acclaim throughout the United States and in Europe, including in Germany, Siberia, Slovenia and Croatia. On June 30, 2011, AXIS was featured as guest artists on Fox’s hit reality TV show “So You Think You Can Dance.” AXIS has received seven Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and has been featured on KQED’s SPARK program, KRCB’s One in 5 Stories and WNET’s nationally broadcast People In Motion. Most recently, AXIS was named one of the top 10 high-impact arts nonprofits in the San Francisco Bay Area by Philanthropedia.

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For their exclusive Chicago engagement at ATRU, AXIS will perform choreographer Mark Brew's "Full of Words" (2011), "Light Shelter" (2009) by David Dorfman and "Vessel" (2008) by Alex Ketley in collaboration with poet Carol Snow:

Full of Words (2011)

Marc Brew, UK-based choreographer, presents "a series of physical conversations, encounters and interventions that reflect what it is to be human." This edgy, intricate piece challenges audiences to think about who might dance, and how we might exist with each other, seeing through the lens of Brew's unique movement dictionary.



Light Shelter (2009)

New York-based choreographer David Dorfman invites audiences to teeter on the edge of light and darkness, and community and isolation, while the musical collaboration of Albert Mathias and Michael Wall shapes a mysterious background in this enchanting reality. AXIS also introduces a component of 11 community dancers alongside its fierce and sensuous company dancers. According to The Portland Press Herald, "Light Shelter" was an electric composition, with the creative use of onstage lighting symbolic of the dancers' sparking energy and athleticism."

Vessel (2008)

Choreographer Alex Ketley, in collaboration with poet Carol Snow, created this quartet, a tidal wave of engaging momentum. "Somehow, Ketley transcends the merely autobiographical, as word and action seem to prosper and blossom in a genuine synthesis. Bodies thrust and retreat, enablers become partners," raves Voice of Dance critic Allan Ulrich.

Performance Schedule and Ticket Information

AXIS Dance Company performs at the Auditorium Theatre:

Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$30-\$72 and are available online at ticketmaster.com/auditorium, by calling (800) 982-2787 or in-person at ATRU's Box Office (50 E. Congress Parkway).

Auditorium Theatre 2011-2012 Subscriptions & Groups

Subscriptions for the Auditorium Theatre's 2011-2012 season and discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are now on sale. For more information or to purchase a subscription or group tickets call (312) 431-2357 or visit auditoriumtheatre.org.

2011-2012 season packages available include:

Flex Package – Choose at least two shows from all offerings.* Shows include "Hallelujah Broadway," DRUMLINE LIVE, Rasta Thomas' BAD BOYS of DANCE, AXIS Dance Company, Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra with Rockapella, "Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah," Batsheva Dance Company, American Ballet Theatre in "Giselle" and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Subscribers receive a 10% discount for two shows, 15% for three shows, 20% for four shows, and 25% for five or more shows.

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Family Series – Patrons may choose at least 2 from the following: DRUMLINE LIVE (Sunday, Oct. 30 at 3 p.m.), AXIS Dance Company (Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m.), “Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah” (Sunday, Jan. 15 at 3 p.m.) or Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Saturday, April 14 at 2 p.m.).

Student Matinee Series – Available only to school groups of 10 or more: AXIS Dance Company (Friday, Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. / tickets: \$10 each), “Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah” (Friday, Jan. 13, 2012 at 11 a.m. / tickets: \$10), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 11 a.m. and Friday, April 13 at 11 a.m. / tickets: \$12)

* Please note: On Stage With...Susan Werner is available as an add-on to the Auditorium Theatre's subscription series. Discounts are available for groups of 6 or more.

About the Auditorium Theatre's Family Series

ATRU's Family Series is designed specifically to awaken children's interest in live performance and plant the seed for developing an appreciation of the arts. This unique opportunity allows patrons to receive a free children's subscription with the purchase of any full-price adult subscription package. This special offer expires on Friday, Jan. 13, 2012. This year's Family Series encompasses an eclectic mix of dance and music offerings, and includes DRUMLINE LIVE, AXIS Dance Company, “Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah” and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Patrons may choose at least two of the aforementioned shows. Each family performance is followed by a question and answer session with members of the shows' artistic teams. This interactive experience can dramatically change the impact of the performing arts on its viewers, and with the involvement of families it can also empower youth to express themselves.

Sponsorships

The Auditorium Theatre is grateful for the generous support of the Illinois Arts Council, CityArts, American Airlines and the Palmer House Hilton.

The Auditorium Theatre's Student Matinee Series is sponsored by The Private Bank and The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation.

MetLife Foundation The MetLife Foundation is AXIS Dance Company's National Tour Sponsor. Additional sponsors of AXIS Dance Company's performance at the Auditorium Theatre include Variety – the Children's Charity of Illinois and New England Foundation for the Arts.

About the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, located at 50 E. Congress Parkway, is an independent, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural and community programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre. The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the Illinois Arts Council, CityArts, American Airlines and the Palmer House Hilton. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theater tours, call (312) 922-2110 or visit auditoriumtheatre.org.

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