

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Center Announces Winners of 'Dance for Change' Essay Contest

THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE is proud to announce the winners of its recent Dance for Change Essay Contest, which inspired more than 500 Florida students in grades K-12 to submit essays in response to the question: *How can dance change the world?* Three winners were selected by a panel of judges comprised of educators, executives and professional artists. Winning entries were submitted by David Behrle from Brookshire Elementary School, Natalia Guerrero from Dr. Phillips High School and Clara Miller from Lake Highland Preparatory School. Each winner receives a \$100 cash prize and will be featured along with their submissions in promotional campaigns for THE CENTER'S Dance for Change initiative, which uses the arts to achieve social change through innovative programs that meet the creative and expressive needs of underrepresented populations. The winners will be publicly honored at an award ceremony on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 7pm at The Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center in Sanford, FL. The ceremony is immediately followed by THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE'S holiday show, *MAKULU*, which has been dedicated to the winners of the contest. To learn more about THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE and the organization's Dance for Change arts initiative, please call (407) 695-8366 or visit www.DanceForChange.org.

'DANCE FOR CHANGE' ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

David Behrle

Brookshire Elementary School, Orange County

Natalia Guerrero

Dr. Phillips High School, Orange County

Clara Miller

Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orange County

To learn more about DANCE FOR CHANGE and to read winning essays, please visit:



www.DanceForChange.org

Dance for Change supports programs and performances that use the dance arts to foster "positive and lasting social change," says Craig W. Johnson, Executive Director of THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE. Specific programs made possible through Dance for Change demonstrably improve self-esteem in minority children, promote peace-building among communities in conflict, educate young audiences about diverse cultures, serve as therapy for the elderly and disabled, and provide scholarship assistance to young students interested in studying the dance arts. Additionally, Dance for Change provides thousands of free tickets each year to underserved children wishing to attend events by THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE. "Students who participated in the Dance for Change Essay Contest were introduced to the kind of thinking that drives the Dance for Change mission," says Johnson, "The premise of the contest was to inspire young people to recognize that the arts—even beyond dance—can be used to promote meaningful change in the world."

About THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is home to six professional dance companies and an institute for dance education, THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE is a leader in the evolution of contemporary dance and a catalyst for creative efforts in social justice. For the past 7 years, THE CENTER has been initiating social change through meaningful productions, innovative programs and outreach endeavors that demonstrate the value of the arts in building community consciousness. In addition to producing professional stage productions, THE CENTER'S programs have reached women's shelters, the homeless, child welfare organizations, the culturally disadvantaged, the disabled and our public schools. To learn more, please call (407) 695-8366 or visit www.TheCenterForDance.org.

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