

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Center for Contemporary Dance to Perform *MAKULU*: The New Holiday Tradition

THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE will perform its annual holiday show, *MAKULU*, at the Helen Stairs Theatre (203 S. Magnolia Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771) on Saturday, December 1st at 7pm and on Sunday, December 2nd at 4pm. An original African tale set in the Serengeti Desert and incorporating animal allegories, *MAKULU* tells the story of a mother wildebeest who must take the journey of a lifetime to discover the legacy that lives within her. This new holiday tradition, now celebrating its fourth year in Central Florida, features THE CENTER's four professional dance companies and offers audiences a unique alternative to other holiday dance shows. General admission to *MAKULU* is \$22; admission for children under 12 and senior citizens is \$17. Tickets may be purchased online at TheCenterForDance.org, by calling (407) 695-8366, or by visiting the box office at THE CENTER, located at 3580 Aloma Avenue, #7 in Winter Park, FL 32792.

MAKULU, which means 'strong woman chief' in Zulu, "is about family, love and miracles," says Dario J. Moore, Artistic Director for THE CENTER and the show's choreographer. Blending African music and cultural dance, *MAKULU* is a family-friendly production based on actual events that occur in the Serengeti. Each year, during an ecological cycle known as the Great Migration, millions of wildebeest must migrate thousands of miles across the Serengeti in order to survive. "*MAKULU* is the name we've given to one of these wildebeest," explains Craig W. Johnson, Creative Director for THE CENTER, "the show follows her uncertain fate after becoming separated from the migrating herd with her newborn calf." Emphasizing relationships and family units, *MAKULU* truthfully depicts events that occur in the Serengeti wilderness "reflecting our potential to persevere and leave behind a legacy of love," says Johnson.

Founded in 2001 by Moore and Johnson, THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE, INC. is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to fostering the traditions of contemporary dance through public performances, dance education, community outreach and creative collaborations. Featuring an ensemble cast of professional and pre-professional dancers from THE CENTER's four performance companies, including *U-Turn Dance Company* and *UTD*², both founded by Moore, *MAKULU* also showcases dancers from THE CENTER's resident companies, *Patelworks Dance Theater*, founded by choreographer Smruti Patel, and *DRIP paint in motion* (drippaintinmotion.com), founded by Art Director and choreographer Jessica Mariko. "*MAKULU* is about family in more ways than one—our companies have come together to tell this dramatic and heartfelt story. *MAKULU* is a perfect way to celebrate the spirit of the season," says Moore.

To learn more about THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE, call (407) 695-8366, log on to TheCenterForDance.org, or visit THE CENTER, located at 3580 Aloma Avenue, #7 in Winter Park, FL 32792.

THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE'S *MAKULU*

An African Tale About Family, Love and Miracles

Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 7pm
Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 4pm

The Helen Stairs Theatre
203 S. Magnolia Avenue
Sanford, FL 32771

General Admission: \$22
Children Under 12 and Senior Citizens: \$17

To Purchase Tickets:

TheCenterForDance.org
(407) 695-8366

Or visit the Box Office at:

THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE
3580 Aloma Avenue, #7
Winter Park, FL 32792

Monday-Thursday, 11am to 7pm
Saturday, Noon to 6pm