



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Sarah Wagner
972-744-4612 or sarah.wagner@cor.gov

EISEMANN CENTER PRESENTS STEP AFRIKA!
FOR ONE PERFORMANCE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023 at 7:30 PM

RICHARDSON, TX – *Eisemann Center Presents* continues the 2023-2024 Season with **Step Afrika!** on Sunday, October 22 at 7:30 pm in the Hill Performance Hall. **Step Afrika!** blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional West and Southern African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, **Step Afrika!** is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping—a polyrhythmic, percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument. Under Mr. Williams’ leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America’s cultural exports, touring more than 50 countries across the globe. **Step Afrika!** is one of the top 10 African American dance companies in the world. **Step Afrika!** promotes stepping as a contemporary dance genre through critically acclaimed performances and arts education programs. Creatively engaging audiences in this nascent art form, the Company creates full-length productions that expand on stepping’s unique American history.

The Company reaches tens of thousands of Americans each year through a 50-city tour of colleges and theatres and performs globally as Washington, DC’s one and only Cultural Ambassador. **Step Afrika!** has earned Mayor’s Arts Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education (2005); Innovation in the Arts (2008); and Excellence in an Artistic Discipline (2012); and performed at the White House for President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama and for President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden for Juneteenth this past June.

Critically acclaimed works, such as *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence and Drumfolk*, tour major U.S. cities. **Step Afrika!** is prominently featured at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History & Culture with an interactive exhibit on the art form of stepping. Learn more about **Step Afrika!** at www.stepafrika.org.

Tickets are \$47-\$57 and are available for purchase online at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972.744.4650. Group discounts are available for 10 or more persons. Lobby and Ticket Office hours are 10 am – 6 pm Monday through Saturday and during all public events.

About the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts: The Center, a City of Richardson facility, is a hub for arts and culture, dedicated to presenting exceptional and innovative artistic experiences. The center hosts a diverse range of performances, exhibitions, and educational programs, aiming to enrich the community through artistic expression. The Eisemann Center is in the Galatyn Park Urban Center at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. The Eisemann Center is easily accessible from Highway 75 North taking the Galatyn Parkway/ Renner Road exit going north and the Galatyn Parkway/Campbell Road exit going south or from the DART light rail station at Galatyn Park.

#####

Cutline: Step Afrika! (Photo credit: Drago Videmsek)