



## PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Cheryl Goodman, 410.370.8994

### DANCE BALTIMORE RECOGNIZES AREA DANCE LEGENDS WITH AWARD *Maria Broom and Stephanie Powell Honored as Dance Treasures*

(Baltimore, MD) Dance Baltimore, a non profit arts service organization, will present its prestigious Dance Treasure Award to two local dance professionals—Maria Broom and Stephanie Powell. The Dance Treasure Award is a special recognition of a lifetime of dedication, artistic excellence and tireless service and contribution to dance throughout the Baltimore metropolitan community. The Dance Treasure Award is a “living award,” to be celebrated during the lifetime of the recipient. Past recipients of the Dance Treasure Award have been Eva Anderson (Eva Anderson Dancers), Chrystelle Bond (Goucher College), Lester Holmes (choreographer/instructor/performer), the late Ed Terry (Arena Players) and Dr. Iantha Tucker (Morgan State University). An awards luncheon and ceremony to pay honor to the award recipients with music, presentations, and performances is planned for Sunday, October 8, 2017 at the Sheraton North Hotel, 903 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson, MD, 1 – 4pm. EARLY BIRD TICKETS are available through August 18<sup>th</sup>. After August 18<sup>th</sup>, Individual tickets, \$50.00. Table of eight (8), \$300.00. Tickets are available at [www.dancebaltimore.org](http://www.dancebaltimore.org).

“I am so excited that we are honoring these two young ladies this year,” says Dance Baltimore Founder/Director Cheryl Goodman. “Note, I said ‘young ladies.’ The Dance Treasures Award recognizes a *lifetime* of service but because these two dance professionals are so accomplished, so talented, and have contributed so much to so many for so long, it’s fabulous that they will be receiving their flowers as still young women. We couldn’t deny what they mean to the local, national and international dance community. Baltimore should be very proud.”

See biographies of awardees below:

#### MARIA BROOM

Although nationally recognized as an actress for her recurring roles in HBO’s *The Wire* and *The Corner* and her featured role in the award winning film, *Clara’s Heart*, Maria Broom is also a dancer and storyteller with more than forty years of performing and teaching around the world. A Fulbright Scholar, an Open Society Institute Fellow, and a former featured news reporter for

Baltimore's WJZ TV, Maria added “author” to her list of achievements in 2013 with her book, *The Village Bully*. But it is her role as ‘dancer’ that started it all and ultimately defines her in the Baltimore metropolitan community.

Performer. Instructor. Choreography. Educator. Maria has covered all the bases in dance. She has performed in, choreographed and/or directed productions of *Pippin*, *Once on This Island*, *Jungle Book* and *Hair*, to name a few, in the US and abroad. Founding the multigenerational dance company, The Dance Bringers in Baltimore in the early 80s, Maria was able to bring her wealth of dance history and knowledge to men and women of varying backgrounds and create a model for dance, unique at the time, where everybody dances—young, old, trained, untrained, thin, heavy, graceful and clumsy. In her dance career, Maria Broom has been a Guest Instructor at the University of Hawaii, Johns Hopkins University, Vanderbilt University, Maryland Institute College of Art, and others additionally providing workshops throughout the United States, and in Germany, Hawaii, Uganda, Ghana, Poland, and India. Currently, Maria is on the theater faculty at the Baltimore School for the Arts, a guest instructor for Peabody Preparatory and Center Stage, and for many years was the host for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's popular Music Box series. In 2004, Maria received Maryland's Governor's Arts Award for Individual Artist.

STEPHANIE POWELL is Artistic Director of the Stephanie Powell DanseEnsemble, Glory to God Arts Ministry, Restoration Community Dance Ministry, In The Spirit Dance Ministry, and director of Baltimore DanceTech, Inc. Ms. Powell is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University with a Masters Degree in Liberal Arts. Her undergraduate degree in Dance Education with Certification and Performance/Choreography was obtained from Goucher College. She is a graduate of the Baltimore School of the Bible where she received a diploma in church ministries. She was on the faculty of the Baltimore School for the Arts for twenty-one years and is currently teaching at Carver Center for the Arts and Technology and Goucher College. Ms. Powell has also served as the ballet and modern dance instructor for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Cirque du Soleil, The Lion King, and The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theatre. As a guest choreographer, her works can be seen in the repertoires of the Jacksonville University, Northern Illinois University, The Ballet Theater of Maryland, Towson University, and University of Alabama at Birmingham. Ms. Powell was guest artist and choreographer for the Berkeley Ballet Theater in California for seven consecutive summers.

Numerous awards and grants received by Ms. Powell include seven Individual Artist Awards in Choreography from the Maryland State Arts Council; two Emerging Artists series at the Dance Place in Washington D.C.; five City Arts Grants awarded by the City of Baltimore; and the Distinguished Black Marylander Award. Ms. Powell was presented with the prestigious Lehman Award in Los Angeles, CA. She was recently honored by the Maryland Department of Education as the Outstanding Teacher for Gifted and Talented Education for Baltimore County. Ms. Powell was also honored in 2014 as Woman of the Year by Justice, Unity, Generosity, Service, International (J.U.G.S.).

Dancers trained by Ms. Powell can be seen in various schools and companies such as The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Lines Ballet, Boston Ballet, Culberg Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and The Julliard School, to name a few. Her students can also be seen on Broadway in national stage productions of "The Lion King," "The Color Purple," "Movin' Out," "Evita,"

"Motown" and Cirque de Soleil. Ms. Powell celebrated 35 years of teaching in June 2017 at the George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology with a performance that included over 150 former students, ages five to sixty five, from around the country.

*Dance Baltimore, Inc.*

Founded in 2003, Dance Baltimore is a dance service organization created to enhance the role of dance in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Dance Baltimore will celebrate its 15 year anniversary in 2017 – 2018; a variety of special events and activities will be scheduled throughout the year to recognize the accomplishment. The organization promotes dance for health, fitness, fun and self expression, primarily for adults.

For more information, visit the Dance Baltimore website at [www.dancebaltimore.org](http://www.dancebaltimore.org) or email [info@dancebaltimore.org](mailto:info@dancebaltimore.org).

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