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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIODANCE AND FUTURPOINTE PRESENT INNOVATIVE CONTEMPORARY DANCE IN THE NEXTSTAGE

The Nextstage hosts contemporary dance festival featuring two of Rochester's newest and most dynamic dance companies.

October 13, 2010. Rochester, N.Y. – Geva Theatre Center is delighted to welcome two of the area's newest and most dynamic dance companies for their Nextstage debut with two weekends of innovative dance.

FuturPointe will open the festival with work centered around the exploration and convergence of dance and mixed media, including collaborations with visual artists, photographers, videographers and composer/musicians. FuturPointe was formed less than a year ago, but has already performed in showcases in New York City and throughout the state. The show's creators present an eclectic mix of imagistic and sensory experiences, based on the multi-national cast's diverse repertoire of global dance styles. Work presented will include "Mashramani," choreographed by Guy Thorne; "Tangere," an Argentine tango-inspired suite by Heather Roffe, and a modern African piece by Melinda Phillips.

BIODANCE will share its original, contemporary and multi-media dance works created by Missy Pfohl Smith. These visually stunning and socially conscious works feature the premiere of "Your Stories/Our Stories" with an original score by local composer Mark Olivieri and created through and inspired by a series of public multi-generational workshops and performed by a cast ranging in age from 15 to over 60. Additional repertory will include a piece created by NYC-based choreographer Ivy Baldwin in collaboration with BIODANCE dancer Jeanne Schickler Compisi as well as "Guzzle," choreographed by Missy Pfohl Smith. BIODANCE has gained regional and national recognition through its state and national tours, as well as residencies in New York City.

**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 232 1366 x 3059**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

FuturPointe Performances

Thursday, October 21 @ 7:00pm

Friday, October 22 @ 7:00pm

Saturday, October 30 @ 7:00pm

Sunday, October 31 @ 2:30pm

Biodance Performances

Saturday, October 23 @ 7:00pm

Sunday, October 24 @ 2:30pm

Thursday, October 28 @ 7:00pm

Friday, October 29 @ 7:00pm

TICKET PRICES: **\$20 for Adults, \$15 for Students and Seniors**
See both companies for \$30!

RESERVATIONS: **232-Geva or via the website: www.gevatheatre.org**

LOCATION: **Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607**

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Geva Theatre Center is Rochester's leading professional theatre and the most attended regional theatre in New York State. Founded in 1972, Geva attracts over 170,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students. The 552-seat Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage offers a wide variety of shows, from musicals to American and world classics.

The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Nextstage is home to Geva's own series of cutting-edge drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornet's Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. The Nextstage also hosts visiting companies of both local and international renown.

Geva Theatre Center offers a wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Since 1995 the organization has been led by Artistic Director Mark Cuddy.

FUTUREPOINTE

FuturPointe was formed as an initiative to broaden the appeal and spectatorship of contemporary dance. FuturPointe Dance is a fusion company - combining dancers and choreographic styles from a variety of genres and training, including modern dance, popular/social/folk dance, Caribbean, African, Latin, ballet, and physical theater.

The company roster is culturally diverse, with dancers hailing from Jamaica, Guyana, the Ukraine, New Orleans, the Midwest, and New York. Weekly classes are open to the Rochester community, and company members are actively involved in residencies and performances that educate, entertain, and promote the vitality and global presence of contemporary dance.

Current company members include Guy Thorne, Heather Roffe, N'Jelle Gage, Melinda Phillips, and William J. Knighten. Company apprentices are Nikki Harris and Olga Kravets. The company is co-directed by Guy Thorne, Heather Roffe and N'Jelle Gage.

For more information visit www.futurpointedance.org

BIODANCE

BIODANCE is a contemporary dance company founded in 2002 by choreographer/performer Missy Pfohl Smith. Through the creation of dance works, BIODANCE often explores human interaction and the environment through collaboration with multi-

disciplinary artists and dancers. The company is gaining a national reputation performing in NYC, NY State, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Based in NYC for 12 years, Smith performed and toured with Randy James Dance Works, Paul Mosley, among others. She also worked as an apprentice for the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. Missy has performed and taught across the U.S. and in Poland, Germany, Estonia, Latvia & Japan. She is currently the Director of the Program of Dance and Movement at the University of Rochester. She and BIODANCE have received grants from the Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester, The New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature, among others.

For more information, visit www.biodance.org

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