

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES LIMITED RETURN OF D.C. HOLIDAY SENSATION

STEP AFRIKA!'S MAGICAL MUSICAL HOLIDAY STEP SHOW

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announced today the return of D.C.'s favorite holiday tradition, **Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show**. Following two sold-out runs in 2022 and 2023, the world-renowned step troupe will return to Arena's iconic in-the-round **Fichandler Stage** this winter for another limited run. The festive "step-stravaganza" will run **December 13 – 22, 2024**. Press Night will be held on **Friday, December 13**. For information and tickets, please visit arenastage.org/stepshow.

Easily the most memorable holiday party every year, *Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show* blends the rich African American tradition of stepping with the magic of the season. Relish in laughter, songs, and dance when DJ Nutcracker, his Arctic friends, and award-winning performers amplify the festive atmosphere in this vibrant, fun-filled show. Promising an unforgettable adventure for the entire family, audiences won't want to miss this holiday spectacular when it returns to the Fichandler Stage next month.

"There genuinely isn't a better or more entertaining way to get into the holiday spirit," said Arena Stage Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif**. "We continue to be grateful for Step Afrika! and its partnership with Arena, and we look forward to breaking it down on the Fichandler Stage when this fabulous company returns to us for the holidays to once again fill our theater with stepping, laughter, and holiday cheer."

New this year will be Step Afrika!'s festive tribute to Go-Go, the official music of Washington, D.C. Choreographed by Jakari Sherman, "Here We Go-Go" hasn't been performed live since 2014, and Step Afrika! is extremely excited to bring this historic merger of stepping with the exciting rhythms of Go-Go to Arena Stage!

"This year alone, Step Afrika! has performed in over 60 cities and countries across the globe, and the Company is excited to be home in Washington, D.C. for the holidays," says Step Afrika! Founder and Executive Producer **C. Brian Williams**. "In honor of our 30th Anniversary, Step Afrika! will bring over 17 multi-talented dancers and musicians to Arena Stage in one of our biggest holiday shows ever!"

Founded in 1994 by **Williams**, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional 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.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*

On the Fichandler Stage

December 13 – 22, 2024

ABOUT: Step back into the holiday spirit with the joyful return of Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*, where the rich tradition of African American stepping blends with the magic of the season. Enjoy laughter, songs, and dance with award-winning performers on the Fichandler Stage. DJ Nutcracker and his Arctic friends amplify the festive atmosphere. This vibrant, fun-filled show promises a memorable adventure for the entire family, captivating your heart and senses. Don't miss this extraordinary holiday "step-stravaganza"!

PLAN YOUR VISIT

TICKETS: Ticket prices start at \$45 plus applicable fees. Ticket prices and availability are subject to change. Tickets are available online at arenastage.org. Tickets may also be purchased by phone at 202-488-3300, or in person through the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, Washington, D.C., Tuesday–Sunday, 12--8 p.m.

Arena Stage's many savings programs include "pay your age" tickets for those aged 35 and under; military, first responder, and educator discounts; student discounts; and "Southwest Nights" for those living and working in the District's Southwest neighborhood. To learn more, visit arenastage.org/savings-programs.

Unique for Step Afrika!'s *Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*, Arena Stage is delighted to offer a limited quantity of Family Four Packs consisting of four tickets for only \$169, while supplies last. Family Four Packs can be purchased only by phone at 202-488-3300, Tuesday–Sunday, 12–8 p.m.

Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Friday, December 13, at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 14, at 1 p.m.

Saturday, December 14, at 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, at 1 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 19, at 12 p.m.

Friday, December 20, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 21, at 2 p.m.

Saturday, December 21, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 22, at 1 p.m.

Sunday, December 22, at 6 p.m.

Photos with Santa: Sunday, December 15

Join us before the 6 p.m. performance to take a photo with Santa. Reservations required. More information to come.

HBCU/Divine Nine Night: Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Rep your colors! Calling all of our Divine 9 members and HBCU students, staff, and alumni to come out to the show.

TRAVEL: Limited parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage for \$18 to \$30, including drive-up valet parking for \$30. Call 202-488-3300 to purchase in advance. For more information on transportation and other parking options around the Mead Center, visit arenastage.org/transportation.

For complete 2024/25 Season details, visit arenastage.org/season.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, *The first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded in 1950 in Washington, D.C. Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Hana S. Sharif and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. We produce plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and groundbreaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000.* arenastage.org

Step Afrika!, *Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the world's leading authority on the artform of stepping—a polyrhythmic, percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument. Step Afrika! promotes stepping as a contemporary dance genre through critically acclaimed performances and arts education programs. Creatively engaging audiences in this artform, the Company creates new full-length productions that expand on stepping's unique American history.*

With 19 full-time dancers and administrative team of 7, Step Afrika! is one of the top 5 African American dance companies. The Company reaches thousands each year through a 50-city tour of American colleges and theaters and performs globally as an official U.S. Cultural Ambassador. New work, such as 'The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence' and 'Drumfolk,' tour to major U.S. cities. Step Afrika! is featured at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture with the world's first interactive stepping exhibit. stepafrika.org

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