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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVAGE JAZZ DANCE in Concert, with the World Premiere of Igor Stravinsky's AGON

January 21-23, 2010, 8:00pm at Laney College Theater, Oakland

(San Francisco, CA – January 11, 2009) **Savage Jazz Dance Company** (SJDC), in its eighteenth season, presents the world premiere of Igor Stravinsky's **AGON** - an inspired response the landmark collaboration of the same name between George Balanchine and Igor Stravinsky.

The abstract form of **AGON** allows SJDC to capture a certain spirit that reflects the music's modernity 50 years later after its initial premiere.

Reginald-Ray Savage's interpretation of Igor Stravinsky's **AGON** springs from the vision of a black American male who has embraced the image and energy of America's past and the hope of America's future on a united front through the spirit of this music that captures the aggression, the competition, the frustration, the love, and the hope of the right now.

Continuing the theme of re-interpreting notable scores, Savage Jazz Dance in Concert will also feature George Gershwin's **LULLABY**, and **BLUE CALX**, from the acclaimed classical modern group *Alarm Will Sound*.

Savage Jazz Dance Company has, since it's founding in 1992 by Artistic Director Reginald Ray-Savage, produced a career's worth of exceptional dances that both respond to and spring from jazz music. The company has the distinction of being one of America's few all-jazz dance companies performing new works directly inspired by the rich cultural heritage of jazz music.

The Sacramento Bee praised SJDC as "the ultimate stop for jazz fans" and critics have described SJDC to be "a flawless exploration of jazz music" by Dino-Ray Ramos (Oakland Tribune), and "as engaging as ever" by Allan Ulrich (Voice of Dance).

The Savage Jazz Dance Company is a cohesive organization of disciplined dancers and instructors committed to the exploration of jazz music's range of expression. The spirit of jazz is the foundation for the company's existence, and the sustenance that keeps SJDC alive. By staying committed to its vision, SJDC has created a singular technique, quality, and philosophy that define the Company's movement style. Driven by the vision of Mr. Savage, and realized by the commitment of the company's exceptional dancers, SJDC's movement is defined by two primary beliefs: the importance of disciplined, technical dance training, rooted in classical ballet and modern techniques; and the rich artistic expression of jazz as a classic music form.

Since it's founding, the company has produced *more than 100 new works*, choreographed by Savage, and guest choreographers. In addition to their annual home season, SJDC continues to tour the US, conducting residencies and concert performances.

Notable engagements include SJDC's performance at Casa del Jazz in Rome Italy in 2006; it was the first dance company to receive such an invitation, performing to a packed house and rave reviews. In 2003, SJDC was invited to perform at the Jazz Dance World Congress at NYU Buffalo. And SJDC was a resident company in the Lincoln Center Institute's Aesthetic Education Program in Bay Area schools offered through the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts.

Reginald Ray-Savage, Director of the Savage Dance Company, was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He began dancing at Katherine Dunham's Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis. His teachers there, in ballet, tap, jazz and Dunham technique, were outstanding alumni of Miss Dunham's company, including Lenwood Morris, Norman Davis, and Archie Savage. Mr. Ray-Savage does not take lightly the fact that his was the last generation of dancers to be trained by many of these "old school" teachers. His respect for them can be found today in every class he teaches and every piece of his choreography.

CALENDAR LISTING

Please note: Hi-res jpeg's are available upon request from NEQA/Communications.

WHAT: **SAVAGE JAZZ DANCE in Concert**
Igor Stravinsky's AGON (world premiere)

WHO: Savage Jazz Dance Company

WHERE: Laney College Theater (900 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA)

DATES: Thursday – Saturday, January 21 –23, 2010

TIMES: All shows @ 8PM

TICKETS: \$18 Full Price, \$10 Students/Seniors

BOX OFFICE: 1-800-838-3006 and [Brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)
(Direct link: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/93399>)

PUBLIC INFORMATION: savagejazz.org

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