

## wexner center for the arts

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### CHOREOGRAPHER BILL T. JONES TO RECEIVE 12<sup>TH</sup> WEXNER PRIZE

*Columbus*—The 12th **Wexner Prize** will be awarded to leading American choreographer **Bill T. Jones** in the fall of 2005 as part of the Wexner Center's reopening following a renovation. The \$50,000 Prize is given to a contemporary artist who has been consistently original, influential, and challenging to convention.

Bill T. Jones is not only one of America's preeminent dancemakers, he is internationally acclaimed as one of the foremost artists of our time. Known for his wit, elegance, and magnetic presence both on- and off-stage, he often speaks to issues and experiences of gender, race, and sexuality in his work. Jones masterfully infuses socio-political topics of universal import with an acutely personal and poetic dance vocabulary. Over the course of 14 years, Jones and his dance troupe, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, have been honored at the Wexner Center with a Residency Award and five performances, many of them multimedia pieces incorporating spoken word, video, and text.



**Bill T. Jones** Photo by Lois Greenfield

"Astonishing in his choreographic range, Bill T. Jones can be both lyrical and lacerating, pugnacious and poignant," Wexner Center Director Sherri Geldin says. "Ever the iconoclast, Bill has devoted his practice to the creation of a provocative body of work that is unflinchingly honest about the complexities of contemporary life."

Leslie H. Wexner, chair of the Wexner Center Foundation Board of Trustees and founder of Limited Brands, commented, "We are pleased to award the 12th Wexner Prize to Bill T. Jones, a commanding force in his field. We applaud the creative innovation and risk that has characterized his entire career, and look forward to welcoming him back to the Wexner Center for this significant tribute."

Wexner Prize recipients are nominated by the Wexner Center's cross-disciplinary **International Arts Advisory Council** (full list of members is attached) and approved by the Wexner Center Foundation Board of Trustees. The full list of past Prize recipients is also attached.

### **BILL T. JONES AND THE WEXNER CENTER**

The awarding of the Wexner Prize to Jones continues a longterm relationship between Jones and the Wexner Center, which includes five prior performances in Mershon Auditorium by Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, a Wexner Center Residency Award, and a past term on the Center's International Arts Advisory Council. The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company was here first in 1991 to perform *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin (The Promised Land)*. The company received the Wexner Center Residency Award in the 1994–95 season to complete the landmark work *Still/Here* during an intensive monthlong creative residency, which was included in a documentary on PBS and featured on CBS. Since then, the company has been back with *We Set Out Early... Visibility Was Poor* in 1998; the evening-length work *You Walk?* in 2001; and *The Phantom Project—20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season* in 2004. **For more on Bill T. Jones, visit [www.billtjones.org](http://www.billtjones.org). A brief bio is attached.**

### **WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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