

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MADCO Receives International Honor at Canadian Dance Festival**

In August, the Modern American Dance Company (MADCO) performed at the fFIDA International Dance Festival in Toronto, Ontario. Out of 30 world premieres, 79 choreographers, and 250 dancers and musicians, MADCO's performance of *Movement Activities: Response!* was recognized as one of the top 7 performances of the two week long festival.

The fFIDA International Dance festival took place from August 10-21, 2005 in the Distillery Historic District of Toronto. Artistic Director Stacy West applied for acceptance to the prestigious festival in December 2004. Two weeks later, the company was notified of their acceptance into the festival's Indie Mix Series. Although technical and marketing expenses were covered by fFIDA, MADCO was responsible for travel expenses. Through increased fundraising, MADCO was able to raise \$5,000 to take 10 dancers to Toronto for 6 days.

The Toronto Globe and Mail raved that "*Movement Activities: Response!* [is] a wonderfully clever and very funny piece, performed with high energy by MADCO's army of terrific young dancers." MADCO is known for its energetic, innovative, and captivating performances. It was an honor for the company to perform at the festival and receive international recognition.

Choreographer Mikey Thomas created *Response!* for MADCO in August of 2004. Thomas danced with the Sean Curran Dance Company in New York and is currently on the dance faculty at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Thomas has nothing but praise for the company. "I am optimistic for the state of the arts in St. Louis, after working for Stacy West's MADCO. Having a resident company taking risks in presenting new, provocative and quality choreography is definitely filling an otherwise vacant role in this city."

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**About MADCO**

MADCO is based in St. Louis, Missouri and has toured throughout the United States. The company's world class performers are college trained professional dancers who have studied dance from nationally and internationally known teachers throughout the country. MADCO is a repertory company and has gained a reputation for its athletic, entertaining, and versatile style. The company was founded in 1976 by Alcine Wiltz and Ross Winter. After Ross Winter's death in 1994, Stacy West became the Artistic Director of the company.

MADCO programs are funded by the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission, the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, the Arts & Education Council of St. Louis, and by corporations, foundations and private donors. The company is currently a participant in the COCA dance space initiative and rehearses daily in University City.

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