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UGANDA ARTS OUTREACH DANCE BENEFIT TO SUPPORT THE KAMPALA BALLET AND MODERN DANCE SCHOOL

WHITE WAVE John Ryan Theater - New York, NY – May 1 and 2

For two evenings and one afternoon the New York City dance community will unite to raise funding and awareness for Uganda's Kampala Ballet and Modern Dance School (KBMDs). KBMDs is the first dance school of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa to have been founded by an African and the only school that offers ballet and modern dance training in Uganda. The Uganda Dance Benefit will feature the talent of over 60 dancers, including those from the Jamal Jackson Dance Company, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, WHITE WAVE Young Soon Kim Dance Company, New York University, and Bemoved Dance Company. Performances are scheduled for Friday, May 1 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, May 2, at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Tickets for this extraordinary 10-company line-up are available at www.brownpapertickets.com for a \$20 tax-deductible contribution.

Also joining the line-up are several critically acclaimed groups from across the East Coast, whose support is integral to Uganda Arts Outreach. These include: Jamel Gaines' Creative Outlet-Young Artists, j.COMPAGNIA, Emily Pope-Blackman/Hoverbound, Yin Yue Dance Company, and Darrell Payne, and other special guests.

The Uganda School emerged from the vision of Sylvia Nagginda, Queen of Uganda's Buganda Kingdom. Her school is based in Uganda's capital, Kampala. Still in its infancy, the school already boasts some remarkable achievements. In its first year it served over 400 Kampala residents. Through these performances, Uganda Arts Outreach, Inc. seeks to facilitate the expansion of the School's outreach efforts. Specifically, funds target: an extension program in which instructors will offer free dance classes to children in the public schools, a program of dance education for Ugandans living with HIV/AIDS through The AIDS Support Organization (TASO), and a class series at the Kampala School for the Physically Disabled.

One of the collaborations between the American dance community and KBMDs bearing tremendous fruit is an internship now offered to NYU students in the Steinhardt Dance Education Program. Through the program, students receiving a Masters in Dance Education may earn credit for traveling to Uganda to teach at the school, work with Ugandan artists, and exchange ideas with the emerging KBMDs community.

Children from Uganda's war-torn North are bused to Kampala to participate in the NYU program that provides a dance-filled respite from the challenges confronting their daily lives. Dancers who have participated in the NYU-KBMDs partnership since its inception will join together to perform original works at the Benefit performances inspired by their experiences in Uganda.

Described by Uganda Arts Outreach, Inc.'s founding director, Sara Farley, as "a thrilling response from the New York dance community, the Ugandan diaspora, and lovers of the arts who demonstrate their support of Uganda's development through the arts", the upcoming Dance Benefit performances demonstrate the latent interest among New Yorkers to strengthen the arts and arts training institutions in countries outside of their own. "The Queen's effort to extend the reach of dance in Uganda and share the power of this art form with as many Ugandans as possible is really beautiful. Dance is a necessary tool to foster future leaders and capable citizens who can address the challenges of health, agriculture, and state-building. To support the Queen's efforts, we built Uganda Arts Outreach, Inc., which will host these Dance Benefits and more events like them in the future."

The Dance Benefit performances will take place in the gleaming **WHITE WAVE John Ryan Theater**, which is located near the first Brooklyn subway stop (A/C to High Street; F to York) at 25 Jay Street (718-855-8822). Following the Saturday evening performance, an after-party and "Dance with the Dancers" will be hosted at Water Street Restaurant and Lounge. **Tickets for the show are \$20 with advance purchase.** Tickets to the after-party, which includes drink specials, can be purchased for \$15. **Purchase tickets by calling 1-800-838-3006, or online at www.brownpapertickets.com.** Day-of tickets for \$25 may be purchased at the door. All profits from the show will go toward KBMDs's outreach efforts.