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**LOCAL DANCE COMPANIES/CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SHOWCASE DIVERSITY OF THE BOSTON DANCE COMMUNITY**

BOSTON: Rainbow Tribe, a Boston-based contemporary dance company, celebrates the diversity of the Boston dance community in its upcoming performance *Tribe Vibe IV: Powered by Tribe*. *Tribe Vibe IV* will take place on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at Roxbury Community College's Mainstage Theater and will feature original choreography from Rainbow Tribe along with special appearances by local dance companies.

"To reflect the theme of diversity, the program includes several styles of dance: African dance by OriginNation, contemporary ballet by Northeast Youth Ballet, step by Black Out and hip-hop by Static Noyze," said Rainbow Tribe's Artistic Director Mary Mazzulli. "Juxtaposed throughout, Tribe will perform its signature repertoire consisting of re-staged works and Boston premieres. The audience also gets to dance during intermission which is the most fun part of the program."

In addition to showcasing works by Rainbow Tribe and other local dance groups, *Tribe Vibe IV* also features a new Latin salsa piece by guest choreographer Mila Thigpen. Mazzulli and her Leadership Team chose Thigpen's Latin piece among several outside choreographer submissions earlier in the year. "We are extremely excited to announce the commission of our first Latin body of work by Mila Thigpen," said Mazzulli. "This is a new style for Rainbow Tribe and we're ecstatic to finally bring it to the forefront and showcase how eclectic our talent really is."

Guest choreographer Mila Thigpen is the principal teacher of Boston Ballet's Taking Steps After-School Program and a local artist in the Boston area. Taking Steps provides dance training to girls aged 11 to 14 in a wide variety of styles including salsa, African and Indian among others. The program helps "students explore their creativity and develop leadership skills and confidence as they learn from arts professionals," according to Boston Ballet's Web site.

"For several months I had been searching for an opportunity to work with a group of skilled dancers," said Thigpen. "I work primarily with children who are just beginning to

dance, so working with adults with performance experience would allow me to explore new avenues as a choreographer. At the time I read Rainbow Tribe's call for choreography proposals on Dance Action Network, I was instantly intrigued and very excited to send in a proposal. After learning that Rainbow Tribe's mission is to 'bridge cultural differences and foster universal appreciation for dance in all its forms,' it seemed that a dynamic salsa dance would serve this dance company well."

"What impressed me most about Rainbow Tribe is the company's tenacity for learning new movement. Most of the dancers have had little or no experience in dancing salsa, but they worked very hard. In only six rehearsals, they learned my choreography, which is complicated for a beginning salsa dancer," Thigpen said. "Rainbow Tribe rose to the challenge."

*Tribe Vibe IV* will take place at the Roxbury Community College Mainstage Theater at 1234 Columbus Ave., in Roxbury, Mass. Showtime is 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for Boston Dance Alliance members, students with a valid student ID card and senior citizens. Seating is general admission. RCC's Mainstage Theater is both wheelchair and T accessible. For ticket reservations and general information, please call 617 769 9400, visit Tribe's Web site [www.rainbowtribe.org](http://www.rainbowtribe.org) or e-mail [rainbowtribe.org@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowtribe.org@gmail.com).

Boston-based Rainbow Tribe was founded by the late Carleton T. Jones in 1992. Now under the leadership of artistic director Mary Mazzulli, an original Rainbow Tribe member, Tribe celebrates diversity, fosters a universal appreciation for dance and engages audiences through the marriage of contemporary music and innovative choreography.

Over the last 15 years, Rainbow Tribe has established itself as a prominent company in the Boston community through participation in non-profit events like Project Bread's Walk for Hunger and the American Cancer Society's Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk. Since 2002, Rainbow Tribe has partnered with D.A.R.E.® America to bring dance into metro Boston schools through the D.A.R.E.® Dance Program. Tribe has also performed for Boston's First Night, Bank of America's Celebrity Series "Dance Across the City Day" and the opening ceremonies of the 2004 Maccabi Games. For more information about the company, visit Rainbow Tribe's Web site at [www.rainbowtribe.org](http://www.rainbowtribe.org).