



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Kubota, Press & Marketing Coordinator

(860) 685-2806 | Akubota@wesleyan.edu

Photos available on request

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S
CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS THE
**WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF *ONE SHOT* BY
RONALD K. BROWN/ EVIDENCE**

Inspired by the Photographs of Charles "Teenie" Harris, Acclaimed
Choreographer Premieres His Newest Work in Middletown.

Middletown, Conn., August 13, 2007—Praised as "one of the most profound choreographers of his generation" by *The New York Times*, **Ronald K. Brown** and the award winning **Evidence/ A Dance Company** blend African, modern, ballet, and contemporary dance styles to tell the stories of the African Diaspora. In the company's newest work, *One Shot*, Brown was inspired by the beauty, sense of community and legacy captured by the great African-American artist, photographer, and Pittsburgh native, Charles "Teenie" Harris, nicknamed "One Shot". This work will make its world premiere on September 14 and 15, 2007 at Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts (CFA).

The CFA has been an artistic home for Ronald K. Brown since he made his Connecticut debut there in 2001. In celebration of its 30th Anniversary in 2004, the CFA commissioned Ronald K. Brown to create the piece *Come Ye*. The piece premiered at Wesleyan and is still frequently performed by Evidence. Now, the CFA is honored to present the premiere of Brown's newest work, which will travel to 27 cities around the country in 2007-2008.

Admission to the World Premiere of *One Shot* is \$21 for General Admission and \$17 for Seniors and Students. The performances take place on Friday & Saturday, September 14 and 15 at 8pm in the CFA Theater; there will be a pre-performance talk before Friday's show at 7:15pm in Zilkha Gallery. The Center for the Arts Theater is located at 283 Washington Terrace in Middletown, CT. For tickets or more information call the Wesleyan Box Office at 860-685-3355 or visit www.wesleyan.edu/cfa. Online ticketing is available.

About the Work

"Teenie" Harris captured the spirit of African-American life in Pittsburgh from 1936-1975. His work ranged from photos of everyday people in the city to photos of soldiers, jazz legends, baseball teams, and pivotal events in the city's civil rights movement. Brown comments, "Teenie's images inspired me to discover the story inside and behind the photos." *One Shot* delves into the essence of family, hope, dignity and celebration at the heart of Teenie's art in six sections, "Prayer," "Hope," "Faith/Service," "Beauty," "Celebration," and "The Meeting Room." A seamless fusion of traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word, *One Shot* is both a profound reflection of African-

(Continued)

American history and universal in theme and resonance. It is set to a rich score from Pittsburgh's musical history including works by Billy Strayhorn, Anonimo Consejo and Ahmad Jamal.

About Ronald K. Brown/ Evidence

Founded in 1985, Ronald K Brown / Evidence's focus on the seamless fusion of traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word provides a unique view of human struggles, tragedies and triumphs. Ronald K. Brown uses traditional dance movement as a way to reinforce the importance of community in contemporary culture. Ronald K. Brown/Evidence reacquaints audiences with the beauty of traditional movement and rhythms, and provides a new method of dance communication.

Brown's award winning company now tours to more than 15 cities in the United States each year and has traveled to Cuba, Brazil, England, France, Greece, Hungary, and Segal, to perform, teach master classes and conduct lecture / demonstrations for young people, an unusual feat for a mid-sized company like Evidence. At the same time, Evidence fills the need of communities starving for arts education and cultural and historical connections.

For more information about Ronald K. Brown/ Evidence, visit <http://www.evidencedance.com>.

Related Events:

Charles "Teenie" Harris: Rhapsody in Black and White

September 4 – September 23, 2007

Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University

Unsurpassed in their evocation of the essence of Black urban America in the mid-20th century, the photographs of Charles "Teenie" Harris (1908–1998) document the historic and daily events of Pittsburgh's African American community between 1936 and 1975. During his career with the *Pittsburgh Courier*, Harris produced more than 80,000 photographs—including images of Louis Armstrong, Muhammad Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr. and John F. Kennedy. An exhibition, consisting of 31 photographs created from Mr. Harris' negatives will be open to the public at Wesleyan University's Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery in the month of September.

A Talk by Deborah Willis, *Black: A Celebration of a Culture in Photographs*

Thursday, September 20, 7:30pm - Free admission, Zilkha Gallery

Deborah Willis, a MacArthur Fellow and one of the nation's leading historians of African-American photography and curator of African-American culture, will examine the ways in which black people have photographed themselves and posed for the camera and how the resulting images have shaped, revitalized and recreated the social group.

Photo Credit: Basil Childers

The Center for the Arts is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance as well as film studies events and classes. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

###