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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Central Avenue Dance Ensemble to Present “The History of Black Dance in America”**

### ***Multi-media dance concert part of El Camino College’s Black History Month Celebration***

The Central Avenue Dance Ensemble (CADE) will celebrate Black History Month with a performance at El Camino College that showcases the African-American contribution to American social dance. “The History of Black Dance in America,” scheduled for 8 p.m. Feb. 20 in Marsee Auditorium, is an educational and entertaining history lesson presented through a spectacular multi-media dance concert.

Starting in the late 1800s and progressing to the modern era, the show features mesmerizing and authentic renditions of dances such as Zulu, Work Songs, Cakewalk, spiritual dances, Shim Sham, Lindy Hop, and the foxtrot, plus live singing and a tribute to Nat King Cole.

The Central Avenue Dance Ensemble will celebrate its five-year anniversary at this performance that will also honor hip hop dancer/choreographer MaDonna Grimes for her lifetime contributions. Grimes is a world-renowned performer, choreographer, exercise, fitness and wellness trainer, host, model and actress. Known as the “Queen of Fitness, Dance, and Hip Hop,” Grimes has instructed, choreographed, performed, and appeared in more than 30 countries.

A vernacular jazz dance company, CADE was founded by Chester Whitmore and Ron Parker and named after the famous "Central Avenue" district of Los Angeles, which was the center of black L.A. culture and entertainment in the early part of the 20th century. With its active rhythm and blues and jazz music scenes, Central Avenue was commonly considered the west coast equivalent of Harlem.

Whitmore and Parker worked as the directorial team on the Frankie Manning Centennial Celebration show at the Apollo Theater in New York in 2014. It was acclaimed as “the best show at the Apollo in 25 years.” The pair was also recently nominated as 2015 Black History Month local heroes on KCET TV.

For more information on the Central Avenue Dance Ensemble and “The History of Black Dance in America,” visit: [www.HistoryofBlackDance.org](http://www.HistoryofBlackDance.org). Tickets for “The History of Black Dance in America” are \$18 and may be purchased at [www.centerforthearts.org](http://www.centerforthearts.org), by phone at 310-329-5345 or toll-free at 800-832-ARTS. The Ticket Office is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Campus parking is \$3. The El Camino College Marsee Auditorium is located at 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance.

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