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**VITACCA PRODUCTIONS & COMPANY ANNOUNCES
2012/13 VITACCA DANCE PROJECT PRE-PROFESSIONAL COMPANY ROSTER
AND CHOREOGRAPHIC FELLOWS**

Company Makes National Debut at Dance Chicago on November 10th, 2012

HOUSTON, TX – SEPTEMBER 11, 2012: Vitacca Productions & Company Artistic Director Kelly Ann Vitacca announced the Vitacca Dance Project Pre-Professional Company 2012/13 roster, which stands at 8 dancers, and Choreographic Fellows today. The Pre-Professional Company will have its national debut on November 10th, 2012 at Dance Chicago's Annual Dance Festival at the Athenaeum Theatre. The Pre-Professional Company members and Choreographic Fellows will work with guest artists Autumn Eckman, Artistic Associate from Giordano Dance Chicago; Andy and Dionne Noble, Directors of NobleMotion Dance and Assistant Dance Professors at Sam Houston State University; and Joseph Walsh, Houston Ballet Principal dancer. Learn more about Vitacca P&C's Choreographic Fellowship and meet the 2012/13 Fellows in person at *Dance Bridge* on November 2, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at Asia Society Houston; an event connecting dance creation to the stage. To find out more about Vitacca P&C visit vitacca.org.

The inaugural 2012/13 season of Vitacca Dance Project Pre-Professional Company includes:

Soloists

- Evan Leigh Thornton of Houston with training from West University Dance Center
- Juliette Wooden of Humble with training from Profusion Performing Arts

Ensemble

- Alana Jones of Houston with training from High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
- Morgan Mikes of Houston with training from High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
- Kendall Palmer of Friendswood with training from Amy Blake's Academy of Dance
- Simone Trevas of Houston with training from West University Dance Center and High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

Apprentices

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- Olivia Ekblad-Frank of Katy with training from Starz Dance & Company
- Livia Lavender of Friendswood with training from High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

The 2012/13 season Choreographic Fellows include: Marquita Burke-De Jesus working with guest artist Houston Ballet Principal Joseph Walsh; Kevin Ferguson working with guest artist Giordano Dance Chicago Artistic Associate Autumn Eckman; and Angelita Rozier working with guest artists NobleMotion Dance Artistic Directors Andy and Dionne Noble.

The Vitacca Dance Project has also invited the following aspiring Houston dancers to take company classes in order to further their dance education as well as help them pursue their dream of becoming a professional dancer:

- Madison Araiza of Sugar Land with training from Jana Brown's Center Stage
- Adele Carlson of Sugar land with training from Cookie Joe's Dancin' School
- Erin Hollawmon of Sugar Land with training from Jana Brown's Center Stage
- Taylor Levine of Cypress with training from Dance Central

About Vitacca Dance Project Pre-Professional Company

Vitacca Dance Project Pre-Professional Company is a nonprofit, repertory company offered to 8 pre-professional dancers, ages 13-18. This season the company works with featured guest choreographers Autumn Eckman, Artistic Associate from Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago; Andy and Dionne Noble, Directors of NobleMotion Dance and Assistant Dance Professors at Sam Houston State University; and Joseph Walsh, Houston Ballet Principal dancer. The 36 week program provides advance ballet and contemporary coaching and acts as the foundation for professional dance careers. The company educates the pre-professional dancer on the artistic process of repertoire creation along with industry standards. Pre-Professional Company members work with world-class faculty, notable local artists and renowned national artists. Performance opportunities include venues such as Dance Chicago, Dance Soiree presented by Vitacca P&C, national festivals and showcases.

About Vitacca Community Project Choreographic Fellowship

The Choreographic Fellowship allows emerging choreographers (Choreographic Fellows) guidance and resources needed to enhance their creative skill set, while working closely under a professional choreographer (Choreographic Mentor). The Fellow is given the opportunity to document the artistic process. This program allows the Fellow a professional and creative environment to: study choreography composition, expand creative vocabulary, network with industry professionals, build personal resume, and propose new work for review/possible selection. Upon project completion, the Fellow takes the platform to present their choreographic research for review and feedback. The Fellow is awarded the chance to propose his/her own work for possible repertoire selection which will debut at Dance Soiree presented by Vitacca P&C in Spring 2013. All Choreographic Fellowship projects and gala piece proposals will be presented at the Vitacca Dance Project Preview Event in November 2012.

About Vitacca Productions & Company

Vitacca Productions & Company is a dance development organization that provides advanced dance coaching, outreach programs, professional performances and production/creative management services which bridge the gap between dance artists, career opportunities and the community.

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