

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



**STEP AFRIKA! RESIDENCY TO BE HELD AT MARCUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH MPAC CULTURAL AMBASSADOR DONALD DRIVER**

*Multi-day engagement with Step Afrika! and MPAC Cultural Ambassador Donald Driver  
will take place January 18-20*

**MILWAUKEE** (Thursday, January 12, 2023) – [Marcus Performing Arts Center](#) (MPAC) is presenting a 3-day residency with [Step Afrika!](#), an award-winning African American dance company dedicated to the art of stepping, in partnership with MPAC Cultural Ambassador [Donald Driver](#) from January 18-20.

The multi-day engagement will feature artists from Step Afrika! leading community workshops, a Roll Call showcase with the Divine 9 Greek organizations within the [National Pan-Hellenic Council \(NPHC\)](#) of Milwaukee, a student matinee performance for over 2,000 youth, and a public performance.

Founded in 1994, Step Afrika! is the first professional Dance Company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping. The Company blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities with traditional West and Southern African dances and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience.

Step Afrika! Residency schedule is as follows:

### **Wednesday, January 18**

**6:00-7:00pm** – Step Afrika! Adult Intermediate Dance Workshop with Donald Driver, members of the Milwaukee chapters of the Divine 9, and community members. Pre-registration required.

Location: Bradley Pavilion

**7:30-8:30pm** – Divine 9 Roll Call Showcase emceed by Donald Driver. HYFIN will DJ the Showcase; Step Afrika! Director of Arts Education & Community Programs Artis J. Olds and NPHC of Milwaukee President Berthena Brister will provide remarks. Participating Divine 9 organizations include:

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
- Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

The Roll Call Showcase is free and open to the public. Learn more at <https://fb.me/e/3c1OJ3XQs>.

Location: Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall

### **Thursday, January 19**

**4:30-5:30pm** – Step Afrika! Youth Dance Workshop with Donald Driver and high school students from Milwaukee area schools. Pre-registration required.

Location: Bradley Pavilion

**7:30pm** – Step Afrika! Public Performance, introduced by Donald Driver. A post-show Q&A with Step Afrika! artists moderated by Donald Driver will follow the performance. Tickets available at [www.marcuscenter.org](http://www.marcuscenter.org) or by calling 414-273-7206.

Location: Uihlein Hall

### **Friday, January 20**

**10:00-11:00am** – Step Afrika! Student Matinee Performance for over 2,000 Milwaukee area youth. SOLD OUT!

Location: Uihlein Hall

All events will take place at the Marcus Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for the public performance of **Step Afrika!** are on sale now and start at just \$29.50. To purchase tickets, visit [www.MarcusCenter.org](http://www.MarcusCenter.org), call 414-273-7206, or visit the Marcus Center Box Office at 929 North Water Street, Downtown Milwaukee. Groups of 10 or more can secure their seats by calling 414-273-7207.

To register for participation in the dance workshops, contact Leah Townsend, MPAC Community Engagement & Programming Specialist, at [ltownsend@marcuscenter.org](mailto:ltownsend@marcuscenter.org).

Step Afrika! is part of the 2022/23 [MPAC Presents: Dance Series](#). Build Your Own package options are still on sale and provide the ultimate in savings and flexibility. All upcoming show dates and information are available at [MarcusCenter.org](#). The 2022/23 MPAC Presents Series is supported by Bader Philanthropies, Inc., Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel, Fields Auto Group, the Herzfeld Foundation, The Ambassador Hotel, Sazama’s Fine Catering, and THINKLimo.

This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest GIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Wisconsin Arts Board.

For more information about the show, visit [www.stepafrika.org](http://www.stepafrika.org).

Follow *Step Afrika!* on: [Facebook](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Twitter](#)

### **About Step Afrika!**

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Under Mr. Williams’ leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America’s cultural exports, touring more than 50 countries across the globe. Step Afrika! now ranks as one of the top ten African American dance companies in the United States.

Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, traditional West and Southern African dances, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.

Step Afrika! promotes stepping as an educational tool for young people, focusing on teamwork, academic achievement, and cross-cultural understanding. The Company reaches tens of thousands of Americans each year through a 50-city tour of colleges and theatres and performs globally as Washington DC’s Cultural Ambassador. Step Afrika! has earned Mayor’s Arts Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education (2005), Innovation in the Arts (2008), and Excellence in an Artistic Discipline (2012), and has performed at the White House for President Barack Obama and the First Lady.

Step Afrika! is featured prominently at the Smithsonian’s new National Museum of African-American History & Culture with the world’s first stepping interactive exhibit. In 2017, Step Afrika! made its Off-Broadway debut with the critically-acclaimed production *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence*. In 2020, Step Afrika! Premiered its new feature-length work, *Drumfolk*, in ten major markets including a return to Broadway at the New Victory Theatre.

### **About National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) of Milwaukee**

The NPHC of Milwaukee is a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC), which is a coalition of the nine (9) largest historically African American Greek-letter fraternities and sororities, currently representing over 1.5 million members internationally. The organization boasts a diverse membership comprised of students, celebrities, corporate, political and community leaders.

Its affiliate membership includes Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

The NPHC was organized on May 10, 1930 on the campus of Howard University. For over eighty-three (83) years, members of the constituent Greek-letter organizations of NPHC have convened to discuss and address issues of mutual concern. The collective social and economic power of the NPHC has been a major source of change for the African American community in America since its inception.

#### **About MPAC Cultural Ambassador Donald Driver**

Green Bay Packers legend and community advocate Donald Driver is the Marcus Performing Arts Center's first Cultural Ambassador. The four-year partnership with Donald Driver as a Cultural Ambassador will promote the power of the arts, culture, and community engagement by making the performing arts more accessible to underserved youth, families, and communities of color throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. As a Super Bowl Champion, Dancing with the Stars Champion, Green Bay Packers All-Time Leading Receiver, and 2013 AMVETS Humanitarian of the Year who has overcome homelessness among many other accomplishments, Donald Driver has become one of the most community-minded athletes of his generation.

#### **About Marcus Performing Arts Center**

The Marcus Performing Arts Center (MPAC) serves as a performing arts community gathering space in Southeastern Wisconsin, bringing high-quality arts and cultural programming to the region for over 50 years. As a mission-based non-profit organization located in downtown Milwaukee, MPAC strives to act as an energizing force that connects the community to the world through collaboration, innovation, social engagement, and the transformative power of performing arts. Through multiple performance services and community events, MPAC brings a diverse range of celebrated performing arts to the region including Broadway at the Marcus Center, MPAC Presents, Dance, Jazz, National Geographic LIVE, Rainbow Summer, and additional special performances from internationally renowned artists. MPAC's education, community engagement, and inclusion initiatives provide free experiences designed to engage students and life-long learners in Milwaukee. MPAC is proud to be part of the Milwaukee Theatre District as well as a dedicated War Memorial facility, honoring those who bravely served our country. For more information, visit [www.marcuscenter.org](http://www.marcuscenter.org).

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**For interview/photo/video opportunities, contact Jennifer Han at [jhan@marcuscenter.org](mailto:jhan@marcuscenter.org)**

Press kit can be downloaded here: [MPAC Press Kits - Step Afrika!](#)