



## **ARTSPACE CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR MAY 20, 2013 AT THE COWLES CENTER**

**Featuring performances by THE STEPKIDS and Native Pride Dancers  
Hosted by T. Mychael Rambo**

*(Minneapolis)* Artspace today announced plans for its first ever Artspace Celebration on Monday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. at The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts in Minneapolis. The event, featuring exciting performances, speakers, a digital art exhibit, video presentations and a special announcement, is free and open to the public and will be streamed live to Artspace's national network of resident artists, partners and supporters.

Speakers at the Artspace Celebration will review the organization's substantial national growth and look ahead to upcoming milestones, while celebrating the remarkable Artspace resident artists who create, animate and sustain their communities.

"For more than 30 years Artspace has worked to create affordable, sustainable space for artists and improve the communities in which they live and work," said Artspace President Kelley Lindquist. "After all this time, it's appropriate that we celebrate this work, thank our partners and honor the artists around the country who make neighborhoods great."

Artspace, whose work has been hailed by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ford Foundation and others as an inspiration for the emergent creative placemaking movement, has retained a remarkably low profile over its history, even in its home base of the Twin Cities. One of the goals of the Artspace Celebration is to acquaint the public with one of the "best kept secrets" in the world of the arts and creative placemaking.

Hosted by celebrated Twin Cities performer T. Mychael Rambo, the Celebration will begin with a performance by the Native Pride Dancers and culminate in a performance by THE STEPKIDS, a Connecticut-based trio whose self-titled debut album was named one of SPIN Magazine's top 20 albums of 2011.

Before and after the onstage Celebration, Artspace will present a digital art exhibition, showcasing the work of Artspace's resident artists from across the country.

Tickets for the Artspace Celebration are free, but reservations are required. To reserve tickets call The Cowles Center box office at 612.206.3600 or reserve online at <http://www.artspace.org/events/artspace-celebration>.

Artspace will stream the Celebration live via Facebook beginning at 6:30 p.m. Central at [www.facebook.com/artspaceprojects](http://www.facebook.com/artspaceprojects).

### **About Artspace**

For more than 30 years, Artspace has brought its hard-earned expertise to more than 200 cultural facility planning efforts from coast to coast. Of these projects, 32 have been developed and are owned and operated by Artspace itself, representing a unique, \$500 million investment in America's arts infrastructure. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington D.C., Artspace is America's leading developer of arts facilities. To date we have completed more than a thousand affordable live/work units for artists and their families as well as more than a million square feet of non-residential space for artists and arts organizations. Additional information is available at [www.artspace.org](http://www.artspace.org).

### **About THE STEPKIDS**

The Stepkids are futuristic electro soul recorded on a reel-to-reel; soaring harmonies sung by three singer/songwriters – Dan Edinberg, Jeff Gitelman and Tim Walsh; Kandinsky-esque visuals that make for enigmatic live performances. "A lot of what excites us about this band is this band itself," says bassist and keyboardist Dan Edinberg. "It's not either of us; it's about creating an entity where the entity itself is what's important." It's an approach that comes from more than a decade of musical experimentation. Raised on the East Coast jazz and R&B circuit, individual band members went on to share stages with 50 Cent and Lauryn Hill, tour internationally with indie punk band Zox, score movies and commercials, and produce solo albums. However, it was an interest in creating an aesthetic identity that supersedes conventional pop notions of stardom and self-importance that ultimately drew them together. The Stepkids groove is a startling, yet sexy, fusion of punk, jazz, West African traditional, 1960s folk, neo and classic soul, classic funk and 20th century classical; think T.Rex meets Sun Ra, Sly Stone meets Stravinsky, and Dylan meets Dilla. Philosophy and literature provide a conceptual schematic, from existential musings ("Legend in My Own Mind"), to the work of Charles Bukowski ("La La") and Plato's theoretical "Allegory of the Cave" ("Shadows on Behalf"). Add to this a vested interest in the recording process, and you have an imaginative album of Technicolor brilliance expertly self-engineered and self-produced. Live, kaleidoscopic projections by experimental video artist Jesse Mann consume the stage with light for a multi-sensory experience. And every song on the Stepkids self-titled debut album is written with equal input from each member. "All three of us write and all three of us sing," says Jeff Gitelman, who resigned from touring as Alicia Keys' guitarist to concentrate full-time on recording the Stepkids self-titled debut album. "There's an equal split in the creative process, and we're really happy about that," says drummer Tim Walsh. "Any lyric, any melody, any idea could have been done by any of us." There's no singular icon, no singular sound, and no singular way of making it happen for the Stepkids. It's psychedelia for the 21st century, where the focus is on the whole.

### **About Native Pride Dancers**

Rainbow-colored headdresses, pulsating drumming, and fancy footwork are part of the excitement of a Native American powwow. Two-time world champion Fancy Dancer, Larry Yazzie (Meskwaki) and the Native Pride Dancers perform flamboyant movements passed down by their ancestors with song and dance. Larry Yazzie is an International Lecturer, Educator, Performer, and a Two-Time World Champion Fancy Dancer. He is also the recipient of the prestigious 2012 A.P. Anderson award. Formed in 2003 and directed by Larry Yazzie, the Native Pride Dancers strive to educate and entertain audiences of all ages throughout the world on the beauty, skill, and majesty of American Indian music and dance. The NATIVE PRIDE

DANCERS offer a variety of performance types, from solo to large ensemble productions designed for classrooms as well as theaters. They incorporate information about the dances, the regalia (dress), and the meaning and importance of the traditions of the Native American people. Based in Minnesota, the Native Pride Dancers perform locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Most recent notable performances include The National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC, The Northern Theatre in Jerash, Jordan (as guests of the US Embassy in Amman, Jordan), The Steppingstone Theater in St. Paul, and The Cowles Center for the Performing Arts in Minneapolis, as well as numerous schools, universities, and festivals across the country and throughout the world.

### **About T. Mychael Rambo**

Emmy Award winning actor, vocalist, arts educator and community organizer; T. Mychael Rambo has performed principle roles at the Guthrie, Penumbra, Ordway, Illusion, Mixed Blood, Park Square Theatre, Children's Theatre and the Fitzgerald Theaters among others. Rambo has performed nationally, including Carnegie Hall, Off-Broadway and abroad. He has appeared in local and national television commercials, feature films, HBO mini-series', and other television programming. He has also released two popular CD's: *Simply* - a collection of jazz standards; and *The Gift: A Christmas With Love* - a selection of original and holiday classics. T. Mychael had the great honor of singing the National Anthem for President Obama during his 2009 visit to the Twin Cities and former President Jimmy Carter in 2010. Mr. Rambo is also the proud recipient of the 2010 Sally Award in Arts Education, presented by the Ordway Theatre for the Performing Arts, as well as a Minnesota Black Music Award, also in 2010. His honors and awards include Young Audience Art of the Year, McKnight Theatre Artist Fellowship, Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Fellowship, and both the University of Minnesota Century Council Community Award and Outstanding Community Service Award, to name a few.

# # #