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## REINDEER SPOTTED IN ATLANTIC STATION'S CENTRAL PARK

**ATLANTA, Georgia – November 16, 2009** – Moving in the Spirit, an award winning dance and youth development program, will kick off the holiday season with Colie Neidlinger's "Reindeer Games" in Atlantic Station's Central Park.

This dynamic event features the company's skilled and celebrated teen dancers, The Apprentice Corporation Touring Company, and examines the uplifting theme of joy and play while working together. Both energetic and educational, this dance piece is fun and appropriate for the whole family.

"The opportunity to work with choreographer Colie Neidlinger was the chance in a lifetime!" states Artistic Director, Dana Marie Lupton. "When Liz Gillespie of Atlantic Station approached me to participate in their fabulous tree lighting, I knew that a premiere would be in order. I have been following Colie's work and was delighted when she agreed to set this clever, fun piece on the Company. The dancers love the playfulness in the work and have fallen in love with Colie."

Neidlinger shares, "It has been so much fun for me to watch the personalities of each dancer come out in the character they are playing. Their teamwork is evident- it is exhilarating to work with a group that is so connected to each other and so eager to learn, play, and perform!"

The Apprentice Corporation Touring Company combines the talents of currently enrolled teen dancers with Moving in the Spirit alumni who are now attending college in Atlanta. Moving in the Spirit alumna and Emory University college student, Andrea Lewis shares, "When I graduated from high school, I realized how much I missed performing all over the country with my Moving in the Spirit friends. The Touring Company is a great way for alumni to mentor the senior dancers and give back to the Atlanta community."

The Apprentice Corporation Touring Company performs locally and nationally. While on tour, the teens share their powerful dances with new communities and study at some of the nation's top dance programs. Additionally, the teens perform a body of work that focuses on racial reconciliation and tolerance, participate in educational experiences and collaborations with other youth organizations, engage in leadership opportunities through public speaking and lecture demonstrations, and visit college campuses.

The Apprentice Corporation will be performing at 4pm and immediately before the tree lighting around 7pm in Atlantic Station's Central Park.

Founded by Dana Lupton and Leah Mann in 1986, Moving in the Spirit is a nationally recognized youth development program that integrates high quality dance instruction with performance, leadership and mentor opportunities for young people in Atlanta's urban communities. Moving in the Spirit educates, inspires and unites young people through dance, in order to help them become compassionate leaders.

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