

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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To Mark World AIDS Day, AHF Partners with Legend Debbie Allen to Present 'Keeping the Promise-1,000,000 Lives in Care: Celebrating Icons of Dance' at Harlem's Legendary Apollo Theater

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the world's largest HIV/AIDS service organization, is partnering with the Debbie Allen Dance Academy to host a free, star-studded, event on November 30th at the historic Apollo Theater in commemoration of World AIDS Day. The event will recognize AHF's commitment to addressing the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, with AHF having just reached one million lives in care and also pay tribute to the icons of dance—including presenting Debbie Allen with AHF's Lifetime Achievement Award.

New York (November 12, 2018) – In commemoration of World AIDS Day, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (<u>AHF</u>), the world's largest, non-profit HIV/AIDS service organization has partnered with the Debbie Allen Dance Academy (<u>DADA</u>), to host "Keeping the Promise – 1,000,000 Lives in Care: Celebrating Icons of Dance," a free, star-studded event taking place at the historic Apollo Theater on Friday, November 30th.

"As AHF continues its global mission to provide cutting-edge medical care to those living with HIV and AIDS regardless of their ability to pay, the World AIDS Day event at the Apollo will recognize a momentous milestone for AHF: as of a few weeks ago,, we now have over one million lives in care!," said **Michael Weinstein**, President of AHF. "As part of the evening, we are also honored to recognize and celebrate the exemplary work of icon, Debbie Allen, who throughout her career has been a strong and steadfast voice in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Ms. Allen will be presented AHF's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award, which the organization has only previously presented only once--to the legendary artist, humanitarian and activist, Harry Belafonte."

Once again utilizing the arts to commemorate World AIDS Day, AHF has partnered with the Los-Angeles-based **Debbie Allen Dance Academy**, to present a powerful evening of dance and pay tribute to the icons of dance. The evening will include presentations by an array of cultural icons, including **Maurice Hines, George Faison, Phylicia Rashad** and prima ballerina, **Misty Copeland**. The line-up of

performances is a who's-who in dance, including **Philadanco**, **The Syncopated Ladies**, **Debbie Allen Dance Academy**, **Ailey II**, **Jason Samuels Smith** and **The Dance Theatre of Harlem**. Previously a music-focused event, prior 'Keep the Promise' World AIDS Day events have included an array of award-winning artists including **Mariah Carey**, **Patti LaBelle**, **Common** and **Sheila E**.

The powerful evening celebrating the icons of dance will also include tributes to dance legends that have died due to AIDS related complications, including **Ulysses Dove, Michael Peters, Gene Anthony Ray, Michael Bennett, Rudolph Nuryev** and **Alvin Ailey**. A special tribute will also be given to legendary dancer/choreographer and co-founder of The Dance Theater of Harlem, **Arthur Mitchell**, for his leadership in civil rights, through the genre of dance.

This annual World AIDS Day event, being presented in New York for the first time, will not only be an amazing evening of cultural experiences, but will also serve as an opportunity to recognize the advancements that have been achieved in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the work that is still to be done in continuing to eradicate this devastating epidemic. Free, rapid, 1-minute HIV testing will also be provided during the event. For more event information, please visit www.ahf.org/WAD.

WHAT: 'Keeping the Promise-1,000,000 Lives in Care: Celebrating Icons of Dance'

World AIDS Day event presented by AHF and Debbie Allen Dance Academy

WHO: Debbie Allen, Award-Winning Choreographer/Dancer/Actor

(Note: Ms. Allen to receive the 2018 AHF Lifetime Achievement Award)

Maurice Hines, Actor/Singer/Choreographer

Misty Copeland, Prima Ballerina

Phylicia Rashad, Award-Winning Actor/Director

George Faison, Award-Winning Dancer/Choreographer **Michael Weinstein,** President, AIDS Healthcare Foundation

Performances by the Following:

The Dance Theatre of Harlem

Philadanco Ailey II

Debbie Allen Dance Academy

Syncopated Ladies
Jason Samuels Smith

WHEN: Friday, November 30, 2018

Red Carpet: 5:00pm (VIP Guests to start arrivals at 5:30pm)

Show Begins at 7:00pm

WHERE: The Historic Apollo Theater

235 West 125th Street

New York, NY

Note: For pre-event media interviews, please contact Aliya Crawford (<u>aliya@w-wpr.com</u>) or Syreta Oglesby (syreta@w-wpr.com)

About AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the largest global AIDS organization, currently provides medical care and/or services to more than 1,000,000 individuals in 42 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, the Asia/Pacific Region and Eastern Europe. To learn more about AHF, please visit our website: www.aidshealth.org, find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/aidshealth and follow us on Twitter: @aidshealthcare.