

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Kelly McCaughern, Communications Manager
(267) 515.6726, kmccaughern@art-Reach.org

Art-Reach premieres their first documentary film, *I Am* at the Prince Theater September 19th at 6pm.

Art-Reach is proud to announce the premiere of our documentary *I Am*, this September 19th at 6pm at the Prince Theater. This premiere will include a reception and film viewing, followed by a question-and-answer session with the dancers and filmmaker.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased through the Prince Theater by visiting its website, calling the box office at (267) 239-2941, or in person at the theater, which is located at 1412 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia.

The film *I Am* follows the journey of six students from St. Katherine Day School, a Philadelphia-area special education school, and eight dancers from Pennsylvania Ballet's Second Company, PBII. Together, they created a fully realized ballet piece choreographed by Jessica Kilpatrick, an instructor at Pennsylvania Ballet. For 10 weeks, filmmaker Glenn Holsten and his crew from FreshFly productions documented this journey, a product of Art-Reach's Encore program, which engages people with disabilities in participatory arts experiences.

The original piece was performed live at Art-Reach's Cultural Access Awards in May 2017. This project broke the mold of how Art-Reach creates programming and is a milestone for both the organization and Pennsylvania Ballet's Community Engagement Program. For more information about *I Am* and to see a sneak peek of the film, visit art-reach.org/iam

Art-Reach

Founded in 1986, Art-Reach creates, advocates for, and expands accessible opportunities in the arts so the full spectrum of society is served. Art-Reach is solely devoted to increasing cultural participation among traditionally underserved audiences in both the disability and low-income sectors of the Philadelphia region. In 2017, Art-Reach empowered over 150,000 people to experience arts and culture who otherwise would not have the opportunity. Art-Reach is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. For more about Art-Reach, visit art-reach.org.

About St. Katherine Day School

Saint Katherine Day School is a school of special education that serves students aged four and a half to 21 years old, with cognitive, neurological, and multiple impairments. The main campus, located in Wynnewood, offers both Life Skills and Autism programs. The high school program, located in Radnor at Archbishop John Carroll High School, offers a Life Skills program, which includes functional academics and vocational training.

St. Katherine Day School is the only Archdiocesan school that provides programming for students with neurological and multiple impairments. It chose to meet these needs because of its deep belief and respect for the dignity of all of God's people. For more information, visit stkds.org.

About Pennsylvania Ballet II

Pennsylvania Ballet II is a program for young dancers who are just beginning their professional careers. The "second company" dancers receive intensive daily instruction and fine-tuning from the Pennsylvania Ballet artistic staff, and rehearse and perform with the main company for all of Pennsylvania Ballet's larger productions.

Pennsylvania Ballet II also complements Pennsylvania Ballet's existing outreach and education program, *Community Engagement*. Initiated in February 2002 through the generosity of founding donors Joyce and Herbert Kean, the program enables Pennsylvania Ballet to greatly expand the scope and depth of its outreach effort through theater

and non-theater-based performances at Philadelphia-area schools and other small venues. For more about Pennsylvania Ballet II, visit paballet.org.

Glenn Holsten, Director

Glenn Holsten is a documentary storyteller who creates human-driven films, from the arts to the sciences. Glenn is a recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, an Independence Foundation Fellowship in the Arts, and a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship. He was awarded silver and gold awards from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for innovative television production. He also was honored with sixteen Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards. A collection of his work was exhibited in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's 20th Century Video Gallery.

FreshFly, Production Company

FreshFly is an award-winning film production company based in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. The company specializes in documentaries and documentary-style commercial work with a bold, human touch. FreshFly has brought its authentic and compelling storytelling abilities to its work with clients such as the University of Pennsylvania, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the NFL, Campbell's, PBS and Twitter. The company was awarded with multiple ADDY and Telly awards. Most recently, the trailer for FreshFly's current work-in-progress, the documentary *Threshold*, won a 2017 Gold ADDY Award. For more information, visit freshfly.net.

Special thank you to Impact100 Philadelphia for supporting the program and film.

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