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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

DENVER

David Taylor, ballet master class teacher, sacred dance teacher, choreographer, Artistic Director Emeritus of Denver's David Taylor Dance Theatre, and dance history professor at Colorado State University, is pleased to announce the formation of a new Sacred Dance company.

Called the *Zikr Sacred Dance Ensemble*, the five-member company will offer a spectrum of works that are based on transcendent dance rituals from many different ancient world cultures along with original and contemporary dance/theatre realizations. The Ensemble's varied and unique repertoire ranges from Gurdjieff obligatories and sacred movements, including an ancient Assyrian Women's Mourning Dance, to hypnotic interpolations of the Sufi Mevlevi Whirling Dervishes and the Balinese Sanghyang trance dance. Combined with the theatrical and ritualistic contemporary choreography of Artistic Director David Taylor, the *Zikr Sacred Dance Ensemble's* goal will be to offer stunning performance experiences of spiritual atonement for both audiences and participants alike. The breathtaking choreography and music will be complemented by mesmerizing visual projections and an educational narrative provided by Mr. Taylor, completing performances of mystery, rite and revelation.

Zikr - the remembrance of God: The word "remember" is too pale a word for zikr, which has now acquired a large number of associations in our religious literature, especially Sufi literature. In its verbal signification it implies: to remember, to praise by frequently mentioning; to rehearse; to celebrate or commemorate; to make much of; to cherish the memory of as a precious possession. In Sufi devotions, zikr represents both a solemn ritual and a spiritual state of mind or heart, in which the devotee seeks to realize the presence of God. Thus there is zikr of the mind and zikr of the heart. For beginners the one may lead to the other, but in many cases the two may be simultaneous. There is also a subtler distinction, between the zikr that is open, and that which is secret, relating to the two doors of the heart, the fleshly and the spiritual.

For Booking Information, including master classes and workshops, please contact:

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ZIKR

Sacred Dance Ensemble

David Taylor, Artistic Director

