



Media Contact: Lisa Shiveley
lisa@menloweballet.org
650-743-1454

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PRESS RELEASE

**MENLOWE BALLET'S *RAPTURE*:
SAVAGE, LOVE, AND THE RETURN OF A LEGEND!**

Menlo Park, CA—January 22, 2015—Menlowe Ballet presents *RAPTURE*, **March 27-29** at Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton, CA, 94027. The program features *Blue's Sweet*, a world premiere by one of the bay area's preeminent dance-makers, **Reginald Ray-Savage**, Artistic Director of Savage Jazz Dance Company. Another premiere, *Playing Love*, choreographed by Menlowe Ballet's Artistic Director, Michael Lowe, and the return of Lowe's acclaimed *Legend of the Seven Suns*, completes the program. Performances are Friday, March 27 & Saturday, March 28 at 8pm, and Sunday, March 29 at 2pm. Tickets ranging from \$28-\$48 may be purchased at **www.menloweballet.org** or by calling **800-595-4TIX (4849)**.

Guest Choreographer **Reginald Ray-Savage**, founded Savage Jazz Dance Company in 1992. There, he has choreographed a career's worth of exceptional dances that respond to, spring from, and are inspired by the intentions, energy, and rich cultural heritage of jazz music. Reviewing Mr. Savage, **Dance Magazine** praises, "Once in a great while, a rare person comes on the scene who seems to reincarnate the lessons from his teachers and forbears," describing his company as "the most layered, sophisticated concert jazz dance company in the Western climes".

Says Mr. Savage, "My respect and admiration for Michael Lowe goes back a long way, and it's an honor and a pleasure to choreograph a new work for his exceptional company. I'm inspired by his dancers. This new work I am creating for Menlowe Ballet celebrates all that is jazz—it's sensual, classy, sweet, sexy and sweaty."

More

MICHAEL LOWE

SARAH-JANE MEASOR

LISA SHIVELEY

Mr. Savage received his early training at Katherine Dunham's Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, IL, studying under teachers including Norman Davis, Lenwood Morris, and Mr. Savage's mentor, Archie Savage. He went on to perform with Katherine Dunham Dance Company, Joel Hall Dance Company, Ruth Page Ballet Chicago, and Lyric Opera, as well as in various musical theater productions. Since 2003, Mr. Savage has served as Chair of the School of Dance at Oakland School for the Arts under the executive leadership of Donn Harris. In 1993, Mr. Savage was awarded the Creative Artists Fellowship in Choreography from the City of Oakland, and was later distinguished with a GOLDIE Award by the San Francisco Bay Guardian for "Outstanding Contribution to the Arts".

Menlowe Ballet Artistic Director Michael Lowe's newest choreographic offering, *Playing Love*, is an alluring, romantic neo-classical work that explores relationships and the facets of love. His *Legend of the Seven Suns* debuted in 2014 to enthusiastic response. Lowe travelled to Mongolia to research his retelling of a traditional folktale featuring gods, mortals, and a menagerie of engaging animals set against the backdrop of Mongolia's vast, rugged landscape.

Based in Menlo Park, CA, Menlowe Ballet is a professional ballet company dedicated to bringing dance to audiences throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 2011, the company performs works ranging from cultural to classical to contemporary. In addition to its artistic mission, Menlowe Ballet provides performing opportunities to aspiring students from its official school, the Menlo Park Academy of Dance.

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