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YOUNG BOYS LEARN LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY THROUGH CHESS-INSPIRED DANCE PERFORMANCE

ATLANTA, Georgia – January 31, 2011 – Moving in the Spirit will present its 8th Annual Men in Motion Show on February 26 & 27, 2011. Inspired by the game of chess, the performance features modern, jazz and hip hop pieces that explore strategy, leadership, and what it takes to find one's own path. This athletic, lively dance event will feature young men, ages 8-13, performing with talented male dancers from Atlanta's professional dance community. Guest artists include: Leon Von Brown, international choreographer; TrickaNomeTry Dance Crew, an explosive hip hop group from Emory University; and Julio Medina, Emory dance student and contemporary choreographer.

Moving in the Spirit's Men in Motion program combines dance with leadership training, supporting boys ages 8-13 by providing them with positive male role models and an alternative to street-life. One such role model, program volunteer James Stewart, began teaching the students how to play chess during breaks in dance rehearsals this past fall. This experience sparked the imaginations of the boys immensely, to the surprise and delight of their teachers.

"The boys really took to chess, and became fascinated with strategy and the idea of all these players, kings and knights, battling and moving around each other," says Chris McCord, Director of Men in Motion. "They started physicalizing the patterns of the different pieces, exploring each chess piece's unique movement style. Chess moved from being a hobby to being a part of our class. The more the boys delved into the themes of chess, the more they began to apply them to their own lives. They began discussing what it means to take leadership, think through their choices, and be confident in their decisions. So the inspiration for our show was born."

The 8th Annual Men in Motion show will be held on Saturday, February 26 at 6pm and 8pm, and Sunday, February 27 at 3pm and 5pm at Moving in the Spirit's home theater, The Beam, located at 750 Glenwood Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia. Tickets may be purchased for \$12 at the door on the night of the event, with a \$6 discount for college students, artists, and adolescents ages 13 and under. Children under the age of 3 can attend the performance free of charge.

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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