

The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503

PRESS RELEASE

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The Whiting Kicks Off Its 2008-09 Season with Collage dance Collective

Flint, MI – Straight from New York City, Collage dance Collective, complete with world class dancers, exhilarating choreography and stirring music, will deliver a powerful performance **Friday, October 3 at 8:00 p.m.** at UM-Flint Theatre. All seats are just \$26 and student rush tickets are available the day of the performance for \$12. To order tickets to this dazzling performance simply visit TheWhitng.com, call (810) 237-7333 or (800) 8-CENTER, or visit the Ticket Center located at 1241 E. Kearsley St. just off I-475 between the University of Michigan Flint and Mott Community College. For a complete schedule and full details on the entire 2007-08 season line-up, visit TheWhiting.com or phone the Ticket Center and request a free brochure.

Collage dance Collective is an emerging contemporary ballet company that is dedicated to presenting choreography that explores the interface between modern, contemporary and classical dance by integrating movement, theatre and spoken word. Their mission includes showcasing choreography which illuminates the experiences of cultures evolving from the African Diaspora and broadening the reach of first-rate classically-based dance. This company seeks out cutting edge choreography from emerging and established choreographers, forever searching for the perfect balance of innovative and classic, unexpected and familiar. Having performed in FIM's annual Nutcracker, this dynamic young company will leave you yearning for more.

Artistic Director and Dancer Kevin Thomas began his dance training with Ecole Superieure de Danse du Quebec in Montreal, Canada, and has held principal positions with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Cleveland Ballet and most recently the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) in New York City. He joined DTH in 1995 and was promoted to principal dancer in 1999. With DTH, Mr. Thomas' credits include leading roles in *The Prodigal Son*, *Dialogues*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Othello*, *Adrian (Angel on Earth)*, *A Song for Dead Warriors*, *Troy Games*, *Equus* and *Douglas*. He has performed leading roles in, *The Nutcracker*, *Tarantella*, *Agon*, *Who Cares*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Don Quixote*, *Consort Lessons*, *Concerto K622*, and *Aureole*. Mr. Thomas has made guest appearances with the Royal Ballet in London, Complexions Contemporary Ballet in New York and Fleming Flindt and Peter Schaufuss in Denmark. He has also appeared on Broadway in *The Phantom of the Opera*. His recent choreography highlights include *Spirit of Light*, which fused dance, vocals and spoken word and premiered in New York City and work with the Flint Institute of Music. Mr. Thomas' choreography was presented and performed at the gala ceremony of the MidStates/Regional Dance America competition.

This performance is generously sponsored by McLaren Regional Medical Center, abc12 and CLUB 93.7.

The Whiting is a member organization of the Flint Cultural Center Corporation and is dedicated to bringing the performing arts to the community. The Whiting is a nonprofit organization and an Equal Opportunity Employer providing programs and services without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or handicap.

****High Res Images are available upon request.**

To secure tickets or request images, please contact Wendi Fournier at

(810) 237-8689 or wfournier@thewhiting.com**

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