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BRAZILIAN DANCE COMPANY GRUPO DE RUA BRINGS VIBRANT HIP-HOP MOVES TO CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Known for infusing hip-hop approaches and attitudes into contemporary dance, Brazilian company **Grupo de Rua**—a group of nine male performers that has become an international sensation—brings **H3**, its latest work, to Ohio State's Thurber Theatre in a performance presented by Wexner Center on **Sunday, January 10 at 8 pm** in the group's Midwestern debut.

Rising choreographer Bruno Beltrão has adopted a unique approach, subverting hip hop clichés as he explores more subtle choreographic strategies. Instead of showy acrobatic displays, macho stances and booming beats, Beltrão employs athletic break dance moves and hip hop accented footwork to build a pulsating ambient rhythmic base through a series of electrifying duets and group sections.

Grupo de Rua launched onto the international scene in 2002 and has toured around the world to great acclaim (one critic wrote, "Beltrão's most complex and compelling work to date...*H3* is often spectacular because of its highly energetic flow"), winning such fans as American vanguard choreographer William Forsythe—although this marks the group's U.S. debut tour. Video can be viewed of the innovative dancing in *H3* at <http://www.youtube.com/user/grupoderuadeniteroi>

Prior to the performance, GenWex (the Wexner Center's young patrons group) and the Columbus Young Professionals Club will host a public **reception** at 6:30 pm in Thurber Theatre for CYP Club members and other young professionals, as part of CYP Club's Cultural Series.

EVENT AND SEASON SUPPORT

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2009–10 performing arts season is generously provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

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Accommodations provided by The Blackwell Inn.

All performing arts programs and events also receive support from the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation and Wexner Center members, as well as from the Greater Columbus Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council.



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CALENDAR INFORMATION: *The Wexner Center presents Brazilian dance company **Grupo de Rua**, which will perform its latest work **H3** Sunday, **January 10 at 8 pm** in the Drake Center's Thurber Theatre, 1849 Cannon Dr. on the Ohio State University campus. Run time: 70 minutes, no intermission. Public reception preceding at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 for the general public, \$17 for Wexner Center members, and \$10 for students. Call 614 292-3535 or visit ticketmaster.com (1-800-745-3000). More information: wexarts.org.*