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DANCEBRAZIL BRINGS TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY AFRO-BRAZILIAN DANCE TO THE STAGE AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(Mahwah) – With performers executing acts of super-human physical prowess, accompanied by the soul-stirring sound of live music, DanceBrazil brings audiences to their feet, cheering for more. This electrifying group will perform at the Sharp Theater on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey on Sunday, February 20 at 7 p.m.

DanceBrazil encompasses the best of traditional and contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance, including a martial art form of dance known as *capoeira*. The performance is for audiences of all ages and even for those who do not consider themselves fans of dance.

Jelon Vieira founded DanceBrazil in 1977. Alvin Ailey joined the board of directors in 1980 and helped to focus the dance company's objectives to reach a broad North American community. Vieira is the artistic director of DanceBrazil and the Capoeira Foundation, founded to undertake the long-range goal of spreading Afro-Brazilian cultural messages through education and production activities.

The artistic director and the late Loremil Machado were the first artists to bring traditional Afro-Brazilian dance and *capoeira* to the United States. In addition to solo performances and works for DanceBrazil, Vieira's choreographic credits include the films *Brenda Starr*, *Rooftops* and *Boomerang*.

Tickets for DanceBrazil's performance at Ramapo College are \$24 for adults, \$21 for senior citizens and \$12 for youth. The Sharp Theater is located at the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts on the Ramapo College campus. For more information, call 201.684.7844. This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. # # # #