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**THE MONK PROJECT PRESENTS CONTEMPORARY MULTI-MEDIA  
DANCE AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(Mahwah) – Dance at the Berrie Center presents The Monk Project, a contemporary multi-media dance performance that celebrates the genius of be-bop pianist and composer Thelonious Monk, Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m. in the Sharp Theater on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey.

The Monk Project is a soundscape of urban contemporary musical genres ranging from be-bop and funk to house and hip-hop. Dance styles of stomping, jacking, popping and locking are set against a backdrop of video footage from the documentary film on Thelonious Monk, *Straight No Chaser*.

As a composer, Monk created a new architecture for his music, one in which harmony and rhythm melded seamlessly with the melody. He is widely accepted as a master of American music. His compositions constitute the core of jazz repertory and are performed by artists from many genres. The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz was created to promote jazz education and to train new generations of musicians.

Shannon Mabra, who is affiliated with The House Dance Project, will choreograph the performance. Marshall Swiney, director of the Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center in New York City, will serve as artistic director.

Tickets for “The Monk Project” are \$10. 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.

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