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TOMMY TUNE WILL JOIN IN CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HEDY WEISS on February 3, 2015



Tommy Tune will be part of the Chicago Human Rhythm Project's 25th anniversary celebration.

The Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) — the organization that “creates community through American tap and contemporary percussive arts by means of world-class, innovative performances and education and outreach” — will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in style this year.

Chief among the programs it will present during 2015 is “Stomping Grounds” (April 14 – May 8), a free concert sampler that will conclude with the Chicago Rhythm Fest finale concert at the Auditorium Theatre (May 13). In addition, special guest Tommy Tune, the nine-time Tony Award winning actor-dancer-choreographer-director will receive CHRP’s JUBA! Award at its 25th Anniversary Jubalee set for July 30 at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Here’s a closer look at what CHRP has in store:

“Stomping Grounds” and Chicago Rhythm Fest (April 14–May 13):

This inaugural event is a citywide celebration of the rhythmic arts that connects diverse communities through rhythm. The program will spotlight Chicago’s exceptional percussive dance community while celebrating African, Irish, Mexican, Spanish and American cultural traditions in the form of a series of free events in five distinct communities. Companies presenting work will be CHRP’s resident ensemble, BAM!, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre, Mexican Dance Ensemble, Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago and Trinity Irish Dance Company. Each performance will feature two host companies and cameos by members of the other three participating ensembles.



• April 14, 6 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington: “Moving Dialogs,” a panel discussion about the evolution and relevance of traditional dance forms in contemporary settings featuring the artistic directors of the “Stomping Grounds” companies, sponsored by Audience Architects.

• April 18, 7:30 p.m., Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Avenue:

A collaged view of the percussive dance troupes represented in CHRP's "Stomping Grounds" programming.

performance hosted by Trinity Irish Dance Company and Mexican Dance Ensemble plus cameos by the other companies

• April 24, 7:30 p.m., National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St.: Performance hosted by Mexican Dance Ensemble and Trinity Irish Dance Company plus cameos by the other companies.

• April 30, 7:30 p.m., Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), 5500 N. St. Louis: Performance hosted by Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre and Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago, plus cameos by the other companies.

• May 8, 7:30 p.m., DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place: Performance hosted by Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago and Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre plus cameos by the other companies.

As the culminating event of the Chicago Rhythm Fest, CHRP will re-imagine its inaugural National Tap Dance Day concert of 25 years ago, featuring all five companies in concert May 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress. Part of a citywide celebration, this collaboration closes the Auditorium Theatre's "Made in Chicago" Dance Series. For tickets (\$27-\$67), call (800) 982-2787.

• Tommy Tune will attend the 25th Anniversary Jubilee gala benefit on July 30 at the Museum of Contemporary Art. The evening, which will include a reception and dinner, will feature Tune performing his one-man show, "Taps, Tunes and Tall Tales," accompanied by his music director, Michael Biagi. CHRP also will present Tune with its 25th Anniversary JUBA! Award for Extraordinary Lifetime Achievement. For more information, call (312) 542-2477 or visit chicagotap.org.

Additional 25th Anniversary Season Events

CHRP's annual Winter Tap JAMBoree (Feb. 13-15) will feature master classes taught by guests Cartier Williams, a leading tap choreographer and protégé of Savion Glover, and Nicholas Young, who received a 2014 New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") for Outstanding Music Composition, along with some of Chicago's finest, including CHRP Founder/Director Lane Alexander (who recently received a Tap Legacy Award while performing with Rhapsody in Taps in Los Angeles), and Bril Barrett, Martin Bronson, Zada Cheeks, Matt Crowle, Starinah Dixon, Nico Rubio and hip-hop/break dancer Monty Rezell. Also during the weekend: Tap Scholar Auditions

awarding up to \$10,000 to dancers aged 12 to 18 toward tuition for CHRP's 25th Anniversary Rhythm World summer festival of American tap and auditions for Nicholas Young's Institute For The Rhythmic Arts (IFTRA). Information and registration are available at (312) 922-1272 or by visiting chicagotap.org.

The 25th annual Rhythm World summer festival of tap and percussive dance takes place July 6-Aug. 2 at CHRP's American Rhythm Center, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Jazz Showcase. The fifth year of a five-year international focus (Canada, Japan, Brazil, Europe), it will spotlight Chicago and U.S. artists. For more information call (312) 542-2477 or visit chicagotap.org.

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HEDY WEISS

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