



JUBA!

August Newsletter: Garden of Dance Delights

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Chicago Dancing Festival

August is blooming with a lush garden of dance delights on Chicago stages across the city.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS:

Rhythm World tops off its summer-long 25th anniversary celebration of tap and percussive dance with a gala benefit and **JUBA!**, two nights featuring stellar tappers from Chicago, North and South America, Europe, and Asia for a veritable love-in of tap solidarity.



Rhythm World

At the center of it all are founding artistic director Lane Alexander and the Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP), which has led the national and international tap movement and been the visionary force behind the creation of the most vibrant percussive dance community in the world right here in Chicago. Given the bi-cultural roots of tap dance—Irish and African—Alexander saw an opportunity here for social reconciliation across cultural and geographic boundaries. In the year 2000, CHRP began performing half its concerts on the South Side at the South Shore Cultural Center, and half on the North Side, at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Northwestern, and Vittum Theatre. “After eight years,” Alexander said, “audiences started migrating” to venues outside their own neighborhoods. Alexander began Rhythm World initially as a platform for tap artists, to help elevate the profile of tap dance regionally and nationally, and to create a replicable template. His meta mission was “to get people together and find affinity for each other through rhythm.” Rhythm World has grown exponentially, becoming the oldest and largest annual festival of American tap and percussive dance in the world.

Today, a melting pot of cultures comprises both performers and audiences for **JUBA!**, the grand finale of Rhythm World at Edlis Neeson Theatre of The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), one of the co-sponsors of Rhythm World.

Tommy Tune is the honoree and guest artist of Thursday night’s Jubilee Gala Benefit at the MCA, where he will receive CHRP’s 25th anniversary JUBA! Award for Extraordinary Lifetime Achievement and perform his one-man show, “Taps, Tunes, and Tall Tales,” accompanied by his musical director, Michael Biagi.

On Friday, July 31st, up-and-coming and international masters of American tap pay tribute to Billy Strayhorn, the late legendary pianist, composer and Duke Ellington collaborator. Headliners include

the incomparable Sam Weber, Martin "Tre" Dumas, Yukiko "Smilie" Misumi from Japan, and new works by dancer/choreographers Star Dixon and Zada Cheeks.

On Saturday, August 1st, CHRP resident ensemble BAM! performs Michelle Dorance's Princess Grace Award-commissioned "Push Past Break," and Alexander's "Reflections" and "Prisms." New voices include Sarah Savelli, Jumaane Taylor, Nico Rubio, and Jay Fagan, alongside international multi-form masters Daniel Borak of Switzerland, Brazilian Marina Coura, and a new work by BAM's own Marty Bronson. The Greg Spero Trio accompanies both Friday and Saturday concerts.

The Joel Hall Dancers celebrate the company's 40th anniversary with Hall's "**Anja: The Unexpected**," a world premiere in collaboration with Chicago jazz music legends Charles Heath on drums, Ray Silkman, saxophone, and Jesse Charbonier, vocals. Performances take place August 7-8 and 14-15 at Logan Center for the Arts.

"**Dance For Life**" lights up the Auditorium Theatre August 15th for its annual benefit for The Dancers' Fund, providing financial assistance to dance community professionals dealing with critical health issues. In the past, The Dancers' Fund has provided assistance to qualified applicants dealing with HIV/AIDS, leukemia, various forms of cancer, and traumatic injury. The fund will offer assistance in, but not limited to, the following areas: rent, utilities, insurance, medication and travel.

For the past 23 years, Dance for Life has showcased 32 Chicago-based professional dance companies and choreographers across all ethnicities, genres, and styles. This year's roster includes Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, River North Dance Chicago, C5, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, and Same Planet, Different World.



Chicago Dancing Festival

The Chicago Dancing Festival kicks off its five-concert extravaganza of some of the best dancing you'll ever hope to see, all free to the public, beginning Tuesday, August 25th at the Harris Theater with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico, and Pam Tanowitz Dance, accompanied by members of the Chicago Philharmonic.

New this year for the ninth annual Chicago Dancing Festival is "**Modern Women**," showcasing six women choreographers, three historic modern dance pioneers and three contemporary artists, at the Museum of Contemporary Art on Wednesday, August 26th. As they looked over previous Festival

rosters, co-founder/producers Lar Lubovich and Jay Franke saw a preponderance of male choreographers and a real need to focus attention on the significant contributions of women to the art form. The evening-length concert will feature Lori Belilove and The Isadora Duncan Dance Company in "Valse Brillante" by Duncan; The Martha Graham Dance Company in Graham's "Deep Song," and the 1896 film of Loie Fuller in "The Butterfly," the first ever movie footage of a dance performance. Works by contemporary dance innovators Crystal Pyte, Pam Tanowitz, and Kate Weare represent the pioneering spirit into the 21st century.

The Harris Theater presents a second, completely different program Thursday, August 27th with the Festival-commissioned world premiere of Lane Alexander's "In The Meantime," performed by Chicago Human Rhythm Project with members of Ensemble Espanol and Triinity Irish Dance. Also on the program are The Joffrey Ballet in Stanton Welch's "Maninyas," the first ever Festival appearance of Miami City Ballet performing Balanchine's "Allegro Brillante," soloists from American Ballet Theatre, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in "I Am Mister B," by Gustavo Ramirez Sansano.

Friday's Gala at the MCA features American Ballet Theatre, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Miami City Ballet, and The Joffrey.

The Festival concludes on Saturday, August 29th in the outdoor Jay Pritzker Pavillion with a reprise of "In The Meantime," 30 dancers of the Pittsburgh Ballet performing "Sandpaper Ballet" by Mark Morris, The Joffrey Ballet in Justin Peck's "In Creases," and Miami City Ballet in Twyla Tharp's "Sweet Fields."

Thank Dance It's Friday (TDIF!), a FREE dance concert series hosted by Audience Architects in partnership with the Chicago Loop Alliance at 4pm every Friday from August 7 - September 4. TDIF! will feature three to five diverse dance companies at Pritzker Park, located at 310 S. Wabash.

ALSO IN AUGUST:

August 5th, First Wednesday Open Mic by Laboratory Dancers at the Fulton Street Collective.

August 8-9, Push Dance Company presents "Honey Pot Performance" at Links Hall, featuring a premiere musical collaboration with acclaimed composer Renee Baker. HPP presents their 2015 work-in-progress, Ma(s)king Her-- a dance theater work of speculative fiction.

August 9 and 16, J. Lindsay Brown Dance and The Glitter Island Gang present: "Spectacle Spectacular!" – A fully improvised song and dance musical at the Hamlin Park Fieldhouse.

August 22 and 29 Ayodele Drum and Dance and Red Clay Productions collaborate in "Rhythmic Fusions" at Sherman Park.

Watch out for flying toilet paper, Chicago! It's like the Red Hot Chili Peppers combined with Blue Man Group for kids on August 23rd, when Imagination Movers presents its program at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

August 28th, at Mayne Stage, Chicago Dance Crash continues to blur the line between art and entertainment with the city's most notorious dance battle. KTF matches competitive dance with the energy of late-night theatre and the spectacle of sports entertainment, featuring some of the city's most accomplished dancers battling it out for YOUR vote and the coveted KTF title belt! Crash hosts a night of "summer lovin'" in honor of Grease, the film that was born to hand jive. Pink Ladies vs. T-Birds, a hickie from Kenickie, and a sock hop round are just a few surprises to help you shake off those beauty school dropout blues!

On August 30th, Ballet 5:8 will host its second annual Ballet 5:8 Season Preview Party at St.Paul's Bible Church. This event is an exclusive opportunity to experience the creation process that takes place behind the scenes and makes Ballet 5:8's performances possible.

For Tickets and performance details, go to seechicagodance.com and click on "Coming Events."