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Chicago Dancing Festival Announces 2010 Season New Voices and Modern Masters Celebrated in Acclaimed Festival's Fourth Season

Chicago, May 07, 2010—The Chicago Dancing Company is pleased to announce the 2010 program for the Chicago Dancing Festival. Leading dancers from across the nation and Europe will join together August 25-28, to present the very best in new and classic works, quickly establishing Chicago as a preeminent destination for dance. In its fourth season, the Festival has received both critical and popular acclaim for presenting the highest caliber dancers, choreographers, and works free to all audiences. Chicago Dancing Festival is presented in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art and the City of Chicago-Millennium Park.

Commenting on this year's Festival, artistic directors Lar Lubovitch and Jay Franke said, "We are thrilled about the quality of the program that we will be presenting at this year's festival. In addition to showcasing a fabulous group of American dancers, we are very pleased to share that guest artists from the Royal Ballet will be making their first appearance at the Festival."

2010 CHICAGO DANCING FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 26—Modern Masters, presented in Chicago's Harris Theater for Music and Dance:

Fans of dance will not want to miss out on this opening night event!

- The Joffrey Ballet
- New York City Ballet guest artists Wendy Whelan and Craig Hall in *Liturgy* by Christopher Wheeldon
- Juilliard School Dance Ensemble in *Last Look* by Paul Taylor
- Lar Lubovitch Dance Company in *Coltrane's Favorite Things* by Lar Lubovitch
- Alvin Ailey guest artist Samuel Lee Roberts in *In/Side* by Robert Battle
- Mark Morris Dance Group in *V* by Mark Morris

Friday, August 27—The Dancing Skyline at the MCA Stage at the Museum of Contemporary Art:

The Chicago Dancing Festival 2010 lecture demonstration is focused on the themes of architecture and dance, featuring a lively and engaging conversation with a prominent Chicago architect and Festival choreographer, moderated by noted dance writer and critic Lucia Mauro, and including performances of relevant dance pieces.

Saturday, August 28—Celebration of Dance, closing night performance at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park:

Set against the splendid backdrop of Chicago's Frank Gehry-designed Pritzker Pavilion and stunning lake front, die-hard dance fans, newcomers to the art form, visitors to Chicago, and area families alike come together for this rousing closing night celebration that is sure to bring audience members to their feet.

- Ballet West in *Serenade* by George Balanchine
- Alvin Ailey II in *The Hunt* by Robert Battle
- Royal Ballet guest artists Leanne Benjamin and Ed Watson in the pas de deux from *Manon* by Sir Kenneth MacMillan
- Mark Morris Dance Group in *Grand Duo* by Mark Morris
- The Joffrey Ballet



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Prior to the official opening night of the Festival, a special benefit performance will be held on Wednesday, August 25, at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Highlights of this special connoisseurship evening performance include:

- New York City Ballet guest artists Wendy Whelan and Craig Hall will perform the pas de deux from **Agon** by George Balanchine
- Kanji Segawa will perform **Takademe** by Robert Battle
- Royal Ballet guest artists Leanne Benjamin and Ed Watson will dance **Qualia** by Wayne MacGregor
- Archival dance film will also be featured

While tickets to the Festival's Thursday and Friday performances are free to the public, they must be reserved in advance and sell out within hours. Saturday's performance does not require tickets. Those interested in obtaining tickets are strongly encouraged to visit and register on the Chicago Dancing Festival's website, to receive program updates and ticket information about this year's festival. To learn more about the Chicago Dancing Festival, visit <http://www.chicagodancingfestival.com/>.

About the Chicago Dancing Company

The Chicago Dancing Company was founded by internationally renowned choreographer and Chicago native Lar Lubovitch and highly esteemed Chicago dancer Jay Franke to produce and promote the finest of dance to Chicago. It was founded to heighten awareness of dance in Chicago, increase accessibility to the art form and provide aspiration for local artists. Its mission is to present a wide variety of excellent dance, enrich the lives of the people of Chicago and provide increased accessibility to the art form, thereby helping create a new audience. Its vision is to raise the national and international profile of dance in the city, furthering Chicago as a dance destination.