



FOUNDERS | LAR LUBOVITCH | JAY FRANKE

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Chicago Dancing Festival 2010 “Sells Out” in Two Hours

Access to Closing Night Celebration in Millennium Park’s Jay Pritzker Pavilion Still Open

Chicago, July 16, 2010—Tickets for the free but reserved seating for the 2010 Chicago Dancing Festival “sold out” today within two hours of their release. The rapid response to these highly sought after reservations reflects the excitement surrounding this year’s festival, now in its fourth season. The Chicago Dancing Festival takes place from August 25-28, and is presented in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art and the City of Chicago-Millennium Park.

“We continue to be amazed and deeply gratified by the response of the Chicago and now increasingly national audience to the Chicago Dancing Festival,” said Festival Executive Director Gregory Russell. “Our performances at the Harris Theater and Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) have been a great showcase for the excellent and broad selection of dance that we have been able to bring to new and familiar audiences alike.”

Those wishing to attend the Festival but not able to reserve tickets at the Harris and MCA venues, are highly encouraged to attend the Festival’s closing night celebration at Chicago’s magnificent Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, where ample theater and lawn seating is available and open to all. Included in the closing night’s celebration will be performances by The Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey II, Mark Morris Dance Group, Ballet West and The Royal Ballet.

Festival co-founder and co-Artistic Director Jay Franke adds, “I cannot think of a better backdrop for the closing celebration than Chicago’s own skyline and lakefront. For the past three years, literally thousands of people have joined us at the Pritzker Pavilion for what amounts to one giant party celebrating the best of dance. As a dancer, it is so heartening to see and share in the fun that our audience is having in the seats and on the great lawn.”

CHICAGO DANCING FESTIVAL 2010 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 in **Crossed** by Jessica Lang
- New York City Ballet guest artists Wendy Whelan and Craig Hall in **Liturgy** by Christopher Wheeldon
- Juilliard Dance in **Last Look** by Paul Taylor
- Lar Lubovitch Dance Company in **Coltrane’s Favorite Things** by Lar Lubovitch
- 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:

This year’s lecture demonstration is focused on the themes of architecture and dance, featuring a lively and engaging conversation with prominent Chicago architect Dirk Denison and choreographer and Festival co-Artistic Director Lar Lubovitch, moderated by noted dance writer and critic Lucia Mauro and including performances of relevant dance pieces:



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- New York City Ballet guest artists Wendy Whelan and Craig Hall in the pas de deux from **Agon** by George Balanchine
- Lar Lubovitch Dance Company guest artists Katarzyna Skarpetowska and Brian McGinnis in **Vita Nova** by Lar Lubovitch

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.

- The Joffrey Ballet's Exelon Strobel Step Up dancers in **Inferno** by Derrick Agnoletti
- Ballet West in **Serenade** by George Balanchine
- Alvin Ailey II in **The Hunt** by Robert Battle
- The Royal Ballet guest artists Leanne Benjamin and Edward Watson in the pas de deux from **Manon** by Sir Kenneth MacMillan
- Mark Morris Dance Group in **Grand Duo** by Mark Morris
- Battleworks' Kanji Segawa in **Takademe** by Robert Battle
- The Joffrey Ballet in **Trinity** by Gerald Arpino

Exclusive Benefit Performance

Prior to the official opening night of the Festival, a special benefit performance will be held on Wednesday, August 25, for those supporters who have helped the Festival in its mission to bring the very best of dance to Chicago, free to all. This year's benefit performance will be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art. For those interested in learning more about this special connoisseurship evening and becoming a supporter of the Festival, please contact Gregory Russell at (312) 520-2210 or grussell@chicagodancingfestival.com.

Highlights of the benefit 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
- The Royal Ballet guest artists Leanne Benjamin and Edward Watson will dance **Qualia** by Wayne MacGregor
- The Joffrey Ballet guest artist Victoria Jaiani will dance **Dying Swan** from Swan Lake
- Lar Lubovitch Dance Company will perform an excerpt from **North Star** by Lar Lubovitch
- Archival dance film will also be featured

Those interested in learning more about the Chicago Dancing Festival are strongly encouraged to visit and register on the Chicago Dancing Festival's website at <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.



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About MCA Stage

One of the nation's largest facilities devoted to the art of our time, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) presents exhibitions, performances, and other unique programming by some of the most thought-provoking contemporary artists. As the Museum of Contemporary Art's program of performing arts, MCA Stage is a nationally recognized presenter of contemporary theater, dance, music, and multimedia performances. Featuring leading performers from around the globe, including Chicago's most innovative artists, MCA Stage is the most active interdisciplinary performing arts presenter in Chicago. MCA Stage enjoys working year round with numerous arts and community organizations for the co-presentations of the performing arts, making the MCA a shared resource for the cultural life of our city. MCA Stage celebrates artists and their creative process, connecting audiences with artists in meaningful discourse with its Artists Up Close series of post-show talks, panels, roundtable discussions, workshops, and residencies. To learn more about the museum or to plan a visit, please see its website at <http://www.mcachicago.org>.

About Millennium Park

Millennium Park, managed and programmed by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, is an award winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since its opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has welcomed more than 20 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago. To learn more about the park or to plan a visit, please see its website at www.millenniumpark.org.