



CHICAGO DANCE MONTH
EVERY DAY IS A DANCE

JUNE 2022 • SEECHICAGODANCE.COM

22/23 Dance at the Harris

Alejandro Cerrudo + Artists

It Starts Now

September 8, 2022

Hamburg Ballet/John Neumeier

The Glass Menagerie

February 23 – 25, 2023

École des Sables

The Rite of Spring / common ground[s]

A production of Sadler's Wells and Pina Bausch Foundation

October 27 + 28, 2022

Alonzo King LINES Ballet

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May 5 + 6, 2023

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École des Sables performing *The Rite of Spring*. Photo by Maarten Vande

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WELCOME TO CHICAGO DANCE MONTH!



Dear Chicago Dance Lovers,

I'm writing this note on a beautiful spring morning. A magnolia tree is bursting outside my window, and the birds are in full voice. By the time you read this, it will be fully summer in Chicago, and **the dancers will be in full swing.**

After two years of cancelled performances, health scares and uncertainties, **our spirits are lifting.** We—Chicago dance organizations, individual artists, crews and collectives—are ready to dance and share our explorations and hard work with you, our beloved audience. **Just in time for Chicago Dance Month!**

Not only is 2022 the **10th anniversary** of Chicago Dance Month, it is also the Year of Chicago Dance! Throughout the month of June, and all year long, I invite you to join Chicago's extraordinary dance community to celebrate the beautiful diversity and dynamism of the dance all around us.

The listings on pp. 7–9 are only a portion of what will be on offer in June and throughout the summer.

Please check seechicagodance.com/events frequently as we add more performances and other events to our calendar—the most comprehensive listing of dance events in the city—all the time.

This year, See Chicago Dance will present nearly 50 companies and individual artists in 22 distinct performance and instructional events. Through our partnerships with Navy Pier and Night Out in the Parks, we are **proud to support the work** of such an amazing range of artists.

We invite you to be fearlessly inspired by our ever-growing inclusive community and spread the power of dance in Chicago. We *challenge* you to step out early and often this year and **see Chicago dance!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Julia Mayer'.

Julia Mayer
Executive Director, See Chicago Dance

2022 YEAR OF CHICAGO Dance

Your next performance awaits!
Learn more at

YEAROFCHICAGODANCE.COM

Chicago Dance Crash



ART on
the MART

DCASE

CHICAGO
DANCEMAKERS
FORUM

see
CHICAGO
DANCE

CHICAGO
BLACK
DANCE
LEGACY
PROJECT

NAVY PIER NIGHT OUT
in the Parks
10th ANNIVERSARY

FEATURED EVENT

ReinventAbility: CounterBalance 2022

Underscoring the beautiful creations of choreographer Ginger Lane is the spirit of a fighter who was arrested for demanding civil rights for people with disabilities and the tenderness of a holocaust survivor orphaned by the horrors of Auschwitz.

"Disability is a vantage point, a perspective, a way of experiencing the world," Lane said. "Disability culture includes the arts, sports, all aspects of society—it's about shattering stereotypes and sharing the disability experience, something that touches us all at some point—whether it's permanent or temporary, from birth or due to old age, themselves or through someone they love."

Lane is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, disability rights activist, wheelchair user, mother, grandmother, mentor and friend. She is the artistic director of ReinventAbility, a dance inclusion organization that shares the joy of dancing with disability. "Dance always seemed part of my life," Lane shared. "At six years old, I arrived in the U.S. with limited English skills; movement allowed me to express myself freely. As a disabled adult, an opportunity to perform with the Joffrey spurred me to create movement for other disabled artists as well as myself."

About becoming a disability rights activist, Lane said, "I have been using a wheelchair since 1984 due to a skiing accident. Suddenly I found much of the world inaccessible, especially dance studios and performance stages. Witnessing and experiencing so much discrimination motivated me to improve the lives of people with disabilities. It took years, but when I finally discovered disability arts and culture, I found my calling."

In 2008, Lane conceived and produced the first CounterBalance: the Power of Integrated Dance, an accessible and equitably inclusive annual showcase, which has grown from a small show in a conference room to a critically acclaimed theatrical production. Dance>Detour, the first mixed-abilities dance company in Chicago, joined dancers from the MOMENTA Dance Company for that first presentation. Now in its 12th production, CounterBalance 2022 will highlight the next generation of disabled creators and dancers and feature a work by the inaugural recipient of the Ginger Lane Fellowship (to be announced in June).

In 2020, Lane retired from producing and appointed Ladonna Freidheim, a wheelchair dancer, presenter/producer and founder of ReinventAbility, to continue her legacy. "As far back as I can remember," Freidheim said, "a dancer is who I was. When degenerative disability ended my ballerina life, I recovered from surgeries with future paralympians. They taught me wheelchair sports, and I taught them to dance in their chairs."

Freidheim mostly uses leg braces and a cane, but her wheelchair allows her to dance. "We may live our lives with disability, but it is the people who make choices that exclude and discriminate against the disabled that handicap us. Make your programs accessible, not because of a law, but because you believe in equity for all people. Allow us to join in the dance, and together we will expand the horizons of our art form to be truly diverse, equitable and inclusive."

CounterBalance 2022 takes place September 24 and 25 at Center on Halsted. For information, visit momentadances.org.

THE SELDOMS
20th

**NIGHTLY AT 8:30PM & 9PM, THROUGH JUNE 29
CHICAGO RIVERWALK**

For The Seldoms 20th Anniversary, we're thrilled to bring you *Floe*—a dynamic work for Art on theMART that spotlights climate change, vanishing ice, bodies of water and, ultimately, the human body. Directed by choreographer Carrie Hanson with an acclaimed team of collaborators, including visual designer Bob Faust and fashion designer Maria Pinto.

theseldoms.org

Art on theMART
PC: ANDREW GLATT

FEATURED EVENT

Mandala South Asian Performing Arts: Mandala Makers Festival

Mandala Arts presents its fourth annual Mandala Makers Festival June 16–26, returning to in-person performances after two years of digital programming.

"The digital festival had its challenges and opportunities," said Mandala Associate Artistic Director Ashwaty Chennat. "It was great that the 2021 festival was recommended by the *New York Times*. But we're glad to return to performing for a live audience."

The festival is creating a home in the Devon Avenue neighborhood, which, since the 1960s, has been a hub for immigrants and members of the South Asian diaspora, reflected in the many retailers, grocers, social service centers and community spaces.

"The community is truly diverse, representing more than 20 spoken languages from South Asia alone, but its geographic distance from Chicago's downtown cultural hub can cause many to overlook it," Chennat commented. "Through the festival and other ongoing programs, Mandala hopes to amplify voices and draw attention to the generations of artists, communities and culture in the Devon neighborhood to promote positive change through better representation of and advocacy for artistic communities of color."

The festival features nationally recognized and emerging artists who reside in the community and represent performance disciplines including music, dance, drag, storytelling, community-devised work and interdisciplinary creations—all responding to specific cultures, art forms and perspectives from South Asian traditions.

Programming, some of it site-specific, takes place throughout the neighborhood and will activate unusual spaces, such as street corners and social service agencies, like Mandala's partner, the Indo-American Center. The festival culminates in a three-day showcase indoors and outdoors at Indian Boundary Park, bringing a spotlight to the community and powerful artistry from the South Asian diaspora.

Chennat said, "Mandala Arts has established itself as a home for traditional dance forms of South Asia as well as a fertile ground for experimentation and the cultivation of contemporary dance. During Chicago Dance Month, and in this citywide Year of Chicago Dance, Mandala Makers Festival highlights the contemporary South Asian dance that has emerged in Chicago from independent dancemakers, many of whom work with the popular classical form of Bharatanatyam dance. While Chicago's dance community is familiar with Bharatanatyam, the festival showcases less common forms embedded in South Asian arts—and their diasporic responses—such as Sufi dances, Odissi and forms from the Caribbean diaspora. The festival will explore the juxtaposition of generational continuity and preservation from traditional practitioners with contemporary artists."

The festival is free to the public and supported by the Neighborhood Access Project fund from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Mandala Makers Festival takes place June 16–26 at various locations in the Devon Avenue community. Visit mandalaarts.org.



ONE NIGHT ONLY! :: JUNE 11

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

"Giordano is, and always will be,
American jazz dance royalty."
— Chicago Tribune

TICKETS START AT \$30
AuditoriumTheatre.org :: 312.341.2300

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Ashley Downs and Rosario Guillen. Photo by Todd Rosenberg.

RHYTHM WORLD³²



JULY
8 -24

Jumaane Taylor, Artistic Director



Performances & Classes

FREE Performances July 9 – 23

- July 9 DuSable Museum of African American History
- July 16 Beverly Arts Center
- July 20 Navy Pier Polk Bros Park Lake Stage
- July 23 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

Ticketed Performances

- July 13 Jazz Showcase
- July 18 JUBALEE! Gala MCA, Chicago

ChicagoTap.org



Photo Credit: Kristie Kahns Photography



CHICAGO DANCE MONTH EVENTS

All programming is subject to change; visit seechicagodance.com for updates.

March 7–June 24

**Perpetual Motion: Abraham Walkowitz
Draws Isadora Duncan**

Madron Gallery

Monday–Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm, Free

April 9–June 29

Floe

The Seldoms

Art on the Mart

Monday–Friday 8:30pm, Free

May 5–September 7

Ba Boom Boom Pa Pop Pop

Nick Cave

Art on theMART

Monday–Friday 8:30pm, Free

May 26

Fire + Dragons

Raks Inferno

The Newport Theater

Thursday 7pm, \$29–39

May 27

DanceAfrica Chicago: Mamaya

Muntu Dance Theatre

The Old Post Office

Friday 6pm, \$150

May 27–September 4

Red Velvet Burlesque Cabaret Show

Y Bar

Thursday 8pm, Friday, Saturday, &

Sunday 6pm, \$15–549

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

May 28

**Chicago Dance Month 2022 Kickoff
Celebration**

See Chicago Dance

Navy Pier Lake Stage

Saturday 3pm, Free

May 28

The Black Edition:

Chicago Nothing is Impossible

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater

Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts

Saturday 7pm, \$15–25

May 29

35th Anniversary Concert

Chicago Ballet Arts

Athenaeum Theatre

Sunday 3pm, \$12–35

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 2

Pier Dance

See Chicago Dance

Navy Pier City Stage

Thursday 6pm, Free

June 2

Legacy Ball

Giordano Dance Chicago

Ravenswood Event Center

Thursday 7pm, \$250

June 2–12

Don Quixote

Joffrey Ballet

Lyric Opera House

Thursday & Friday 7:30pm, Saturday 2pm

& 7:30pm, Sunday 2pm \$35–184

June 3–4

rejoinder

dropshift dance

Links Hall

Friday & Saturday 7pm, \$18–34

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 4

Wave Wall Moves

See Chicago Dance

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage

Saturday 3pm, Free

June 4–12

Unfolding Disability Futures

The Plant

Saturday 6:30pm, Sunday 2pm Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 7

On the Move

See Chicago Dance

Sherman Park

Tuesday 4:30pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 9

Pier Dance

See Chicago Dance

Navy Pier City Stage

Thursday 6pm, Free

June 10–18

Pivot Arts Festival

Pivot Arts

The Edge Theater

Days and times vary, Free–\$35

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 11

Wave Wall Moves

See Chicago Dance

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage

Saturday 3pm, Free

June 11

Made In Chicago Dance Series

Giordano Dance Chicago

Auditorium Theatre

Saturday 7:30pm, \$38–84

June 12

Summer Workshop

Giordano Dance Chicago

Sunday 9am, \$650–775

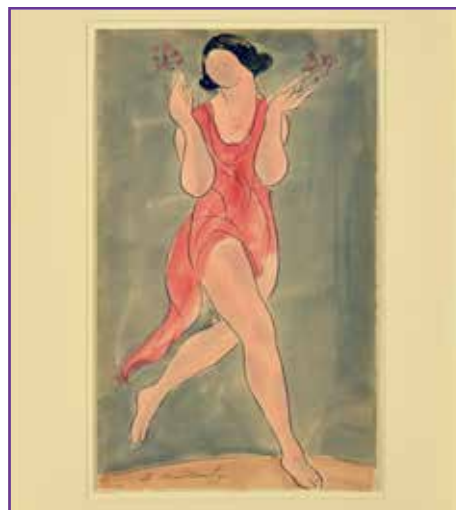
June 12

**DanceAfrica Chicago Professional
Workshop**

Muntu Dance Theatre

Joffrey Tower

Sunday 11am, \$30



June 12

Discussion with Duncan Dance Chicago

Madron Gallery

Sunday 2pm, Free

June 13

Giordano on Giordano

Giordano Dance Chicago

Joffrey Tower

Monday 6pm & 8pm, \$25



June 13–24
Four Seasons of the Soul Online Premiere
 Ballet 5:8
 Virtual Event
 Days and times vary, \$30

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 16
Pier Dance
 See Chicago Dance
 Navy Pier City Stage
 Thursday 6pm, Free

June 16–23
Mandala Makers Festival
 Mandala South Asian Performing Arts
 Various indoor/outdoor locations, Devon
 Avenue Community
 Days and times vary, Free

June 16–26
Co-MISSION Festival of New Works
 Links Hall
 Thursday–Sunday 7pm, price TBD

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 18
Wave Wall Moves
 See Chicago Dance
 Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
 Saturday 3pm, Free

June 18–19
We are the Change!
 Joel Hall Dancers & Center
 Center on Halsted
 Saturday 7pm, Sunday 3pm, price TBD

June 19
Bawdy Suit
 Po'Chop
 The Den Theatre
 Sunday (time TBD), price TBD

June 20–22
Summer 2022 Intensives
 Chicago Tap Theatre
 Visceral Dance Center
 Monday–Wednesday 10am, \$235

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 21
On the Move
 See Chicago Dance
 Sherman Park
 Tuesday 4:30pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 23
Pier Dance
 See Chicago Dance
 Navy Pier City Stage
 Thursday 6pm, Free

June 23–25
The Fly Honeys
 Thalia Hall
 Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 8:30pm,
 \$40–125

June 24
Perpetual Motion: Live Demonstration
 Duncan Dance Company
 Madron Gallery
 Friday 3pm, price TBD

June 24–26
Mandala Makers Festival Artist Showcase
 Mandala South Asian Performing Arts
 Indian Boundary Park
 Friday & Saturday 5pm, Sunday 1:15pm,
 Free



June 25
Mural Dances
 Synapse Arts
 La Villita Park
 Saturday 1pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 25
Wave Wall Moves
 See Chicago Dance
 Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
 Saturday 3pm, Free

June 25
DanceAfrica Chicago: Roots
 Muntu Dance Theatre
 The Harris Theater
 Saturday 7pm, price TBD

June 27–July 2
Pre-Professional/Professional Summer Intensive
 Red Clay Dance Company
 Monday 9:30am, \$400

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 30
Pier Dance
 See Chicago Dance
 Navy Pier City Stage
 Thursday 6pm, Free



July 1–2
Moonwater IV
 Moonwater Dance Project
 Ruth Page Center for the Arts
 Friday & Saturday 7:30pm, \$35–50

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

July 2
Wave Wall Moves
 See Chicago Dance
 Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
 Saturday 3pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

July 9
Wave Wall Moves
 See Chicago Dance
 Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
 Saturday 3pm, Free

July 10
DanceAfrica Chicago Professional Workshop
 Muntu Dance Theatre
 Joffrey Tower
 Sunday 11am, \$30

July 11
Dance in the Parks
Armour Square Park
Monday 6:30pm, Free



July 11–August 5
Youth Summer Intensive
Red Clay Dance Company
Monday–Friday 12pm, price TBD

July 12
Dance in the Parks
Tilton Park
Tuesday 6:30pm, Free

July 12–15
Summer 2022 Intensives
Chicago Tap Theatre
Visceral Dance Center
Tuesday–Friday 10am, \$300

July 13
Dance in the Parks
Ridgeville Park
Wednesday 6pm, Free

July 13–24
Four Seasons of the Soul
Ballet 5:8
Online 7pm, \$30

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!
July 16
Wave Wall Moves
See Chicago Dance
Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
Saturday 3pm, Free

July 16–17
Summer Dance Intensive Performances
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater
Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts
Saturday 7pm, Sunday 3pm, \$15–25

July 18
Dance in the Parks
Olympia Park
Monday 6:30pm, Free

July 18–24
Adult Summer Intensive
Chicago Ballet Arts
Monday–Thursday 6pm, Friday–Sunday
10am, \$270–415

July 19
Dance in the Parks
Mozart Park
Tuesday 6:30pm, Free

July 20
Dance in the Parks
Rosedale Park
Wednesday 6:30pm, Free

July 22
Dance in the Parks
Rutherford Sayre Park
Friday 6pm, Free

July 23
Mural Dances
Synapse Arts
Park #567
Saturday 1pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!
July 23
Wave Wall Moves
See Chicago Dance
Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
Saturday 3pm, Free

July 25
Dance in the Parks
Abbott Park
Monday 6:30pm, Free

July 27
Dance in the Parks
O'Hallaren Park
Wednesday 6:30pm, Free

July 29
Dance in the Parks
Calumet Park
Friday 6:30pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!
July 30
Wave Wall Moves
See Chicago Dance
Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
Saturday 3pm, Free

August 6
Elpis Dance Fest
Identity Performing Arts
Lincoln Park
Saturday 11am, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!
August 6
Wave Wall Moves
See Chicago Dance
Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
Saturday 3pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!
August 13
Wave Wall Moves
See Chicago Dance
Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
Saturday 3pm, Free

August 13
Dance for Life
Chicago Dancers United
Auditorium Theatre
Saturday 6pm, price TBD

August 13
Summer Soiree
Muntu Dance Theatre
The Dandy Crown
Saturday 7pm, \$150

August 14
DanceAfrica Chicago Professional Workshop
Muntu Dance Theatre
Joffrey Tower
Sunday 11am, \$30

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!
August 20
Wave Wall Moves
See Chicago Dance
Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
Saturday 3pm, Free



August 26–September 10
Booms Day
Chicago Dance Crash
Ruth Page Center for the Arts
Friday & Saturday 7pm, \$25

August 27
Mural Dances
Synapse Arts
Jessie "Ma" Houston Park
Saturday 1pm, Free

FEATURED EVENT

The Seldoms: "Floe"

A signature feature of The Seldoms is expansive multimedia performance work, entailing collaboration with visual, sound, fashion and theater artists. With the "Floe" project, and its newest iteration as a 15-minute video for Art on theMART, The Seldoms have created a spectacle that speaks to a pressing issue affecting Chicago's future—climate change.

In describing the origins of "Floe," Founding Artistic Director Carrie Hanson shared, "In 2018, we interviewed Ken Dunton and Jim McClelland, principals of Beaufort Lagoon Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research station, which engages with Inupiat communities. The audio design of 'Floe' includes Ken's oral story of a family whose small fishing boat was overtaken by the newly open waters, causing two family members to drown." Hanson also used photos from an Arctic expedition with the Ocean Geographic Society in the work's scenic design.

In 2019, during a week-long research residency in Houston that included a work-in-progress performance of "Floe," the company connected with people affected by the historic Hurricane Harvey or whose work related to climate and environmental concerns. "This was the first time we conducted research by gathering personal stories in the form of oral histories," Hanson said. "I entered this exchange with the people of Houston with respect for their experience and boundaries. On the whole, people appreciated being heard and contributing to our project.

"The 'Floe' project is about climate change, its impact and our response to it. My intention is to extend the reach of these stories so audiences think about and grapple with this urgent situation."

Describing the current presentation of "Floe," Hanson related, "Our project places—immediately above the Chicago River and within view of Lake Michigan—a powerful dance story that portrays the vulnerability and resilience of the human spirit as we face the existential dangers of our changing climate. The City of Big Shoulders—a city that boldly engineered the reverse flow of a river and is lauded as an architectural gem—was built on a swamp. Already we are seeing a rising Lake Michigan that encroaches on the built environment, and extreme precipitation events are more frequent; Chicagoans will again need to meet these changing water conditions with the vision and brawn that defines our city. Those characteristics also define The Seldoms."

The video builds on the original stage work that premiered in January 2020 at Wisconsin Union Theater (the Chicago premiere at the Art Institute was cancelled due to COVID). The setting spotlights denialism and delay, bodies of water and bodies at risk. "The Seldoms believe dance can ignite thinking about critical social issues," said Hanson. "To see bodies exerting, connecting, laboring and joining in solidarity to lift one another and solve big problems is the kind of inspiration audiences need now, as we recover from the pandemic and face our changing climate. We hope to give Chicago a dance story that reminds them of their city's character—a muscular, problem-solving stance and a spirit of innovation."

The Seldoms' "Floe" appears nightly through June 29 on the Merchandise Mart. Visit artonthemart.com.



Hubbard Street Dancer Alexandria Best
Photo by Michelle Reid, styling by Imani Sade



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/SEASON45**

FEATURED EVENT

RE | dance group: "The Delicate Hand"

RE | dance group Artistic Director Michael Estanich began working on the "The Delicate Hand" in the fall of 2019, hoping to incubate the work in a yearlong process and premiere it in January 2021. When the pandemic interrupted those plans, the company shifted its focus to projects that kept its members working and visible, but safe. RE | dance group offered virtual classes and performances and restaged earlier works that spoke to the present moment—dances that allowed them to frame their current experience.

"We did not feel good about developing 'The Delicate Hand,' mostly because we knew we would have a hard time embodying something so vulnerable and new," said Executive Director Lucy Vurusic Riner. "From an emotional perspective, it felt forced, and from a practical perspective, we knew the significant production costs it required, and we had no earned income."

She continued, "RE | dance group's work generally happens in a landscape/environment that we try to create as part of our set design. 'The Delicate Hand' is performed within and around a large installation of two hands. The essence of the work is to explore how it feels to be held, protected and even cradled at a time in our world when we feel uncertain, unsafe and alone. Our work is always trying to be genuinely connected to the human spirit. What does that mean? I think for us it means that we make it a priority for audiences to see themselves in our work. Is it relatable? Did we stir something in you because we evoked a memory or made you ask yourself a question? Making dance-theatre works about human relationships grounds our choreographic process. We want to be genuine in how we approach each new chapter, vignette or tableau we create for our audiences within our evening-length works.

"'The Delicate Hand' is a dance-theatre work that asks us to be more open, honest and thoughtful in how we approach people as our world opens back up. It's an exploration of how we can meet people where they are and hold them in our hands in a way that is thoughtful, patient and kind. We hope that our multidisciplinary approach to creating and presenting this work speaks to people in a variety of artistic forms. There is not only one way to feel held, cared for and seen; we hope that that is what resonates for our audiences after they have seen a RE | dance group performance."

RE | dance group will have showings of excerpts from "The Delicate Hand" at festivals and other events throughout the year. Visit redancegroup.org.



August 13, 2022

chicagodancersunited.org/dance-for-life



SUMMERDANCE *is back*

July 6–September 17, 2022
(Select Dates)

Dancers of all ages and skill levels are invited to take part in introductory dance lessons by professional instructors followed by music and dancing.

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September 17 for a
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Millennium Park

Spirit of Music Garden in Grant Park + Citywide
neighborhoods and park districts

ChicagoSummerDance.org



**2022
YEAR
OF CHICAGO
DANCE**

2022 is the Year of Chicago Dance
YearofChicagoDance.com

#ChicagoSummerDance #YearofChicagoDance

FEATURED EVENT

Newport Theater

The Newport Theater entrance is unassuming. But behind the double doors, this speakeasy-style black-box theater is (not so) quietly creating a community of nightlife performance art taking the burlesque, belly dance, drag, comedy and clowning worlds by storm.

Formerly "Under the Gun Theater," this former sketch and stand-up comedy venue shifted its focus after reopening with its current name in 2019. Despite closing down due to the pandemic, the Newport Theater remained committed to providing opportunities to artists.

"Many Newport performers are full-time artists, and when live entertainment stopped, we knew we had to help. We created Newport Studio, a multi-camera live editing and recording service to help artists create digital content, and the Newport Virtual Venue, a 'Zelda-meets-Zoom' digital space created by local coding company QueerCoded, where we screened artist-generated digital work," explained stage performer and Newport Theater General Manager Eva la Feva.

"Now that we've reopened for live events, we're cultivating an event space where nightlife artists can create theatrical and variety shows that might be hard to perform in a bar or a nightclub," said la Feva. "Not only do we offer a large stage, equipped dressing rooms and access to amenities, we provide a supportive framework for independent artists/producers to profit from their work and sustainable work opportunities for other nightlife artists."

Newport has attracted a unique conclave of performing artists. The Hot Clown Company, a sex- and body-positive clowning troupe, presented

"Hot Clown Sex: The Second Coming" in a sold-out run in 2021, earning a spot at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Bye Bye Liver rebranded after relocating to Newport, spearheaded by the female-fronted production team Trash Panda Comedy. "We wanted to rethink a historically bro-heavy sketch-comedy drinking show by cutting off the frosted tips and reinterpreting it to be more inclusive for a modern audience," shared director Fee Basanavicius. In March 2022, Bye Bye Liver was selected for the World Comedy Expo.

To cultivate new artistic voices, Newport launched Newport Theater Camp, a series of burlesque, clowning and variety classes for emerging artists and performers. "Our goal is to provide a fun, low-pressure opportunity for people to learn a new skill and get stage experience," said Bazuka Joe, who runs the classes. "We also wanted to offer a variety of disciplines, since Chicago nightlife artists often fuse different art styles."

After live events resumed, the Newport launched "The Newport Peek-Easy," a weekly live and digital burlesque, drag and variety show produced by a rotating group of nightlife variety performers.

"By having multiple producers, we're ensuring artists who work in the industry have a say in who is performing," noted la Feva. "The Newport Theater truly has a production for everyone. A comedy show completely in Russian? Bollywood fusion showcases? Nerd-based belly dance and burlesque? Musical theater drag productions? Sex-positive clowns? You can see it at the Newport Theater," said la Feva.

For a full list of events, visit newporttheater.com.



CHICAGO DANCE MONTH SPONSORS

Programs of See Chicago Dance are made possible with support from

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Ginger Farley
and Bob Shapiro



SEE CHICAGO DANCE FUNDERS



. . . and many generous individuals

PHOTO CREDITS

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Photo 2: Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater by Michelle Reid

Photo 3: Movement Revolution Dance Crew by Philamonjaro

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Photo 1: See Chicago Dance Staff Courtesy of See Chicago Dance

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Photo 1: Image Courtesy of Madron Gallery

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Photo 1: Image Courtesy of Ballet 5:8

Photo 2: Synapse Art by Matthew Gregory Hollis

Photo 3: Moonwater Dance Project by Ren Freeman

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Photo 1: Image Courtesy of Chicago Tap Theatre

Photo 2: Chicago Dance Crash by Ashley Deran

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Photo 1: The Seldoms by Andrew Glatt

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Photo 1: RE I dance group by Matthew Gregory Hollis

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Photo 1: Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre by Philamonjaro

Photo 2: Yin He Dance by Philamonjaro

MAYFAIR ARTS CENTER

Jumaane Taylor, Artistic Director
Kelli David-Low, Program Manager

**GRAND OPENING
SEPT 18**



CHICAGO
**human
rhythm**
PROJECT

NorthSideSouthSideOneSide

A series of informal performances and masterclasses with 18 companies from around Chicago, May 15 – October 16

Classes

for children, teens, adults, elders and professionals with Core Resident Partners: Black Girls Dance, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Joel Hall Dancers and Center, Chicago Human Rhythm Project and more.

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