

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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**CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF MOVEMENT AT
THREE FREE DANCE PERFORMANCES IN MILLENNIUM PARK!**

Don't Miss the Chicago Dancing Festival (August 22);
Dancing in the Park (August 28); and *Cool Vibrations* by The Joffrey Ballet (September 5)

Millennium Park will be filled with the joy of dance during three free events in August and September featuring performances by both established and emerging dance companies from Chicago and around the nation.

The celebration of dance will begin with **The Chicago Dancing Festival**, a collaboration with the Chicago Dancing Company and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Festival will take place in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at 7:30pm on Wednesday, August 22. **Dancing in the Park**, part of the Chicago Office of Tourism's *Art of Play* campaign, will take place at locations throughout the Park, including the BP Bridge, Crown Fountain and Cloud Gate, from 5:30 – 7:30pm on Tuesday, August 28. The final dance performance, ***Cool Vibrations* presented by The Joffrey Ballet**, will kick off the Park's 2007 Blockbuster Week on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30pm, also in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

"Chicago is one of the most vibrant and exciting dance cities in the world," said Millennium Park Executive Director Helen Doria. "We are proud to present these three distinct programs, where the people of this city and their visitors can experience these incredible performances absolutely free of charge."

**Chicago Dancing Festival
Wednesday, August 22, 7:30pm
Jay Pritzker Pavilion**

This unprecedented free celebration of American Dance features performances by a broad spectrum of internationally renowned dance companies including soloists from American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ballet Florida, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago and San Francisco Ballet. The Festival is presented by the Chicago Dancing Company in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art and City of Chicago, Millennium Park.



Dancing in the Park
Tuesday, August 28, 5:30 – 7:30pm
Throughout the Park

Six outstanding Chicago based companies and choreographer's will be featured in Dancing in the Park, part of *Art of Play: Summer in Chicago 2007*. Najwa Dance Corps, M.A.D.D Rhythms, Lucky Plush Productions, Matthew Hollis, The Dance COLEctive and AMEBA Acrobatic & Aerial Dance will explore whimsy, fun and games with performances of African, tap, contemporary and acrobatic works. Performances will take place on the Great Lawn and Wrigley Square, the BP Bridge, the North Terrace, at the Crown Fountain and Cloud Gate. These site related works will interpret the summer promotional theme, "The Art of Play" and will be presented twice throughout the evening.

Cool Vibrations
Wednesday, September 5, 6:30pm
Jay Pritzker Pavilion

The Joffrey Ballet returns to Millennium Park after presenting a series of free standing-room-only performances at the Harris Theater for Music & Dance and the Jay Pritzker Pavilion last summer. The Joffrey will perform their popular program ***Cool Vibrations***, featuring three exciting dance works set to contemporary music:

- *Deuce Coupe* (1973), a program which revolutionized the way the world viewed ballet, featuring choreography by Twyla Tharp performed to the all-American music of The Beach Boys;
- *Motown Suite* (2006), Donald Byrd's first work created for The Joffrey Ballet set to Motown's greatest hits such as "Dancing in the Street," "You Can't Hurry Love," and "I Heard it Through (the Grapevine)"; and
- *Sometimes it Snows in April*, a crowd favorite that combines choreographer Laura Dean's signature geometric patterns and mesmerizing repetition with the music of Prince

For more information about free dance performances in Millennium Park, please contact 312-742-1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

About Millennium Park

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the **24.5-acre Millennium Park** is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture and landscape design. Among the 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.

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