

NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH-SPIRITED DANCE PERFORMANCES FEATURED THROUGHOUT MILLENNIUM PARK

Dancing in the Park Returns to Millennium Park August 18 and 20th

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Millennium Park present two special evenings of exuberant dances by some of Chicago's finest companies. ***Dancing in the Park*** will take place at various Millennium Park locations on Monday, August 18 from 4 – 6 pm and Wednesday, August 20 from 4 – 6 pm, Michigan Avenue at Randolph Street. Admission is free.

Six outstanding Chicago dance companies will be featured in ***Dancing in the Park***: AMEBA Acrobatic & Aerial Dance, Brickheadz, Chicago Dance Crash, DanceWorks Chicago, Ensemble Español and Thodos Dance Chicago will stage performances on the lawn at Wrigley Square, at the Crown Fountain and in front of Cloud Gate in Millennium Park. **The full schedule is attached.**

AMEBA Acrobatic & Aerial Dance integrates the athleticism and daring of acrobatics and aerial arts into the creative voice of contemporary dance. Their new work, "Interlocking Pieces," begins with entwining, mid-air partnering. It progresses to five couples performing graceful acrobatic partnering on the fountain borders and finishes in the fountain with a splashing, high-energy group dance.

The **Brickheadz** are a professional dancebreaking group based in Chicago. Established in 1985, it is one of the most original and predominant dance crews, and has been notably active in the global breakdancing scene since its inception. "For the Love" is one continuous set of improvisational breakdancing solos and choreographed group routines.

Chicago Dance Crash will perform to "L'Via L'Viaquez," a song by the American progressive rock group, Mars Volta, which fuses Latin rhythms and heavy, amped rock. Chicago Dance Crash explores a more Latin approach to its typically aggressive style of movement. Founded in 2002, Chicago Dance Crash is a multi-disciplinary, contemporary dance company with a unique mix of classic and contemporary styles.

Under the artistic direction of Julie Nakagawa, **DanceWorks Chicago** presents two exciting works. "Étude" by Robert Battle is athletic, powerful and intensely musical study of his work. "Beat in the Box" is a collaboration between choreographer Brian Enos and beatboxer Yuri Lane. It opens with a solo and builds to a fun, full company romp, capturing the youthful spirit of DanceWorks Chicago.

Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater showcases exciting and passionate Flamenco dances from Spain's southernmost region, Andalucía, in "Feria Flamenca". Founded in 1976 by artistic director Dame Libby Komaiko, the Ensemble is the premier Spanish dance company and dance center in the United States, whose aim is to share the rich traditions of dance, music, literature and culture of Spain in the classical, folkloric, and Flamenco dance styles. Ensemble Español is in-residence at Northeastern Illinois University.

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Thodos Dance Chicago, a critically acclaimed contemporary dance company beginning its 17th season, will perform "Endymion," an abstract interpretation of a Greek myth in which a handsome young man loved by a moon goddess has his youth preserved by eternal sleep. The work, to be performed in the Peristyle in Wrigley Square, is set for the entire company and reflects the technical proficiency and athletic style for which the Company is known.

Dancing in the Park Full Schedule 8/18 and 8/20:

Crown Fountain

4:00 – 4:15 pm: "Interlocking Pieces" (AMEBA Acrobatic & Aerial Dance)

4:20 – 4:35 pm: "L'Via L'Viaquez" (Chicago Dance Crash)

Wrigley Square

4:40 – 4:55 pm: "Étude" and "Beat in the Box" (DanceWorks Chicago)

5:00 – 5:15 pm: "Endymion" (Thodos Dance Chicago)

Cloud Gate

5:20 – 5:35 pm: "Feria Flamenca" (Ensemble Español)

5:40 – 5:55 pm: "For the Love" (Brickheadz)

August 20th also marks the culmination of the Chicago Dancing Festival in Millennium Park. "**A Celebration of American Dance**" is a free performance at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 7:30 pm. The all-star lineup includes Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, along with dancers from renowned companies American Ballet Theatre, Eliot Feld's Ballet Tech, Oregon Ballet Theatre, and more.

Millennium Park 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 12 million of people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

For more information about Millennium Park, call 312.742.1168 or visit www.millenniumpark.org.

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