

Chicago DanceCrash



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The Company

"Dance Crash is a solidly established ensemble that draws on a slew of styles, from breakdance to ballet, impressively unifying them into a single aesthetic. There is a warrior, action film aspect to their work, but also plenty of emotional depth underpinned by strong technique." -Chicago Sun-Times

**"Think Matthew Bourne, but with a more primitive, ritualistic, streetwise attack."
-Dance Magazine**

Founded in 2002, Chicago Dance Crash has emerged as the premier fusion-style contemporary dance company in the Midwest. Emphasizing a unique mission of both athleticism and accessibility, the Crash aesthetic is most notably recognized by its combination of concert and hip hop techniques in works ranging from full length productions to repertory pieces and freestyles.

Providing a wide array of works, CDC's repertory includes choreography by some of the country's top contemporary, jazz, and hip hop dancemakers while being commissioned to perform at events and stages including arenas, museums, rock clubs, churches, fashion and awards shows, city streets and subways, and floating atop Lake Michigan. Within the last several seasons, CDC has been featured on Italian, French, and American television as well as nationally recognized mediums including Dance Magazine and The Huffington Post. A two-time winner of the Black Theater Alliance Award for Choreography, Crash was selected by critics as "The Best Dance Company in Chicago" in 2009 by the Chicago Reader and hailed by Newcity Stage as one of the top two dance companies to emerge from Chicago within the past decade.

The company's seven member Performance Ensemble and army of Artistic Associates boast professional training backgrounds from London to Chicago's Southside, holds degrees in dance, and teaches K-12 grade students as well as professional and preprofessional classes throughout the state of Illinois. Crash is a touring artist of Urban Gateways and is in residence at Visceral Dance Center where it holds weekly classes open to the public in contemporary, breakdancing, and acrobatics.

The company's 2015-2016 touring engagements included commissioned performances/workshops in NYC, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Iowa City, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Boston, Buffalo as well as locally. www.chicagodancecrash.com.



Artistic Director



“Deahr's versatility isn't at all an end in itself; it seems more to be her way of discovering an artistic expression that can go more places, because it's been more places. While many artists see an uncomfortable contradiction between artistic expression and audience approval, Deahr sees both parts of that apparent conflict with more clarity and in a more complete context.

One of the secrets of Deahr's vision is that because she can see more of it, she can see right through it.”

-The Huffington Post

Jessica Deahr is a small town jazz dancer turned big city B-girl whose international performance career has quickly developed into one of the country's fastest-rising choreography catalogues.

Earning a BA in Sociology from Illinois Wesleyan University, Ms. Deahr has toured Europe, the Mediterranean, Canary Islands, Mexico, Eastern and Western Caribbean, Canada, the U.S. and South Korea as a dancer and aerial artist. A first-generation

student of James Morrow's concert hip hop “fusion” technique, Jess has held company positions for both Morrow as well as Joel Hall Dance Company under the artistic direction of Joell Hall while “gigging” for print, film, and stage projects ranging from Google & McDonalds to Vanilla Ice & the Betty Ford Foundation.



Creatively in 2015-2016, Ms. Deahr's choreography and direction has been seen across the country in museums, public installations, fashion shows, commercial and independent films, musicals, and for peer theatre/dance companies as well as Crash's primary Season of premier works.

Described by the Chicago Tribune as “...**brash, funky, bright and street friendly in style,**” Jessica's movement invention and teaching style pulls inspiration from ballet, breaking, hip hop, Capoeira Regional, and a touch of the old school jazz forms that nurtured her. After traveling the world, she currently calls Chicago home and is learning to love dogs.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jessicadeahr>

<http://jessicadeahr.com/>



Touring Program 2016/2017 (Full length production)

“Evil & Good”

A hip hop morality tale

Choreography by Jessica Deahr, Kaitlin Webster, and Christopher Courtney.

7 Dancers.

Run time: 1 hour

“Chicago Dance Crash has always occupied a distinctive space between flashy squad and classically trained ensemble. The dancers are versatile, agile, but they come at you with the attitude of a hip-hop crew.” -Chicago Reader

“3 and ½ out of 4 Stars!” -Chicago Tribune

“...there were plenty of acrobatic tricks, and enough welcome moments of cacophony.” ----Seechicagodance.com

“The synchronicity is so flawless, their movements become one long graceful, muscular ripple from limb to limb.” -The Fourth Walsh



Our current touring production is our most sought after and critically-acclaimed show to date! ‘E&G’ is a seamless conceptual concert referencing everything from game shows & peer pressure to altruism & natural selection to comment on the complexities of human morality. Featuring music from Johnny Nevin, Coin Locker Kid, El-P and Chopin, the show is appropriate yet challenging for all ages and artistic aptitudes while featuring our signature, high-energy fusion style.

The performance does not require any set pieces and a “low tech” option is available.



Touring Program 2016/2017 (Repertory Works)

<http://chicagodancecrash.com/videos/>

“Morphic Slip”

Choreography by Jon Lehrer

Music by Apex Twin

5-8 Dancers.

“The dancers’ skinny-hooded, skin-tight, head-to-toe iridescent costumes make them look vaguely amphibian, an effect increased by the many floorbound sections. Sliding across the floor or sprawled facedown like heavy sleepers, smiling at each other at times, the performers take on a quirky nonhuman humanity.”

-SeeChicagoDance.com



“I Didn’t Realize I Wasn’t Minding My Own Business”

Choreography by Mark Hackman & Jessica Deahr

Music by Rebecca Foon and Evan Chapman

6 Dancers.

“Six dancers take their solos in a quiet display of skill, each with his or her own signature trick: a windmill kick, some back inversions, flips and handstands. Deahr and Hackman design an appreciation of hip-hop’s sometimes singular, reverent act of confrontation.”

-TimeOut Chicago

“Ex-pired”

Choreography by Lindsey Leduc Brenner

Music by Inner

2 Dancers.

“The movement remains intensely physical. The emotion spins from the realization that the differences have created too much of a gap for the relationship to survive. For anyone that’s ever been through a breakup, you’ll recognize the effects.”

-TimeOut Chicago



“Undertow”

Choreography by Nicholas Leichter

Music by Bjork

4 Dancers.

“Leichter originally staged the work fifteen years ago, CDC smartly reimaged the work on its four leading-ladies.” -Arts Intercepts

Touring Program 2016/2017 (Repertory Works cont.)



“Stakes is High”

Choreography by James Morrow

Music: How to Dress Well, Jungle, and Donny Hathaway & Roberta Flack

6-10 Dancers.

“The Generator”

Choreography by Jessica Deahr

Music: Boreta, BMD, and Apparat

4 or 5 Dancers.

“Inside a mainframe computer, dancers in black ninja onesies mimic the glossy look of CGI animation. Aerial moves launch imperceptibly, and cartwheels hang midair and finish with silent landings. Jessica Deahr’s choreography effortlessly evokes a digitized primordial ooze; dancers rise up from the floor, slicing a diagonal as they balance, on the tops of their feet, then drop flat again onto their bellies.”

-Chicago Reader



“Heard That”

(excerpt from ‘New Alaska)

Choreography by Jessica Deahr

Music by Extrawelt & Murcof

5-6 Dancers.

Touring Program 2016/2017 (Freestyles)

A favorite staple of the company's touring program, improvisational works can be structured or created with a presenter's specific needs in mind... whether to emphasize an event's theme, encourage audience involvement, employ live music or other artists, or work within a site specific performance area. The company has been commissioned to 'freestyle' or 'show off' by museums, corporate events, parades, fashion shows, tourism departments, film/video/tv production companies, and student events all across the U.S.

A Crash freestyle can be 3-15 minutes in length with a cast of any size in almost any performance area.

Past commercial clients of Crash freestyles include....



Educational Programming

Assemblies, Residencies, Field Trips, and Master Classes

With an extensive background in teaching and student-based activities, CDC has created programs for elementary schools, universities, libraries, and community centers all across the Midwest. Always able to command attention and inspire, Crash programs are created with the Illinois Board of Education's social emotional learning standards (SEL) and the Fine Arts Standards Illinois State Goals in mind with a special emphasis on fun, tolerance, and culture.



The Chicago Dance Crash “Growth Through Diversity” Program

A multi-faceted outreach event including dance instruction, lecture demonstrations, interactive discovery, and performances dedicated to the growth of art, society, and self through cultural respect and understanding. The



origins of ballet in Europe, capoeira in Brazil, and hip hop in the U.S. are as influential to their own movement vocabularies as they are to the types of music, clothes, terminology, and even etiquette embraced by their practitioners. In relating the foundings of these forms to others including modern, jazz, and many more can we better understand the importance of diversity in our lives and community. The program involves 5-8 dancers.

Master Classes

Students of all ages and aptitudes are taught by our highly-trained professional instructors dedicated to an accessible curriculum with clearly defined goals including exciting, interactive lessons in a positive, safe environment. Class options include contemporary, hip hop, breakdancing, ballet, krump, capoeira, jazz, and improvisation.



Testimonials



"As always it was great seeing your dancer tear the stage apart. (Hopefully not themselves though at times I wonder how they manage not too). The work was exhilarating and powerful. They conveyed and sense of daring mixed with fun that brought the audience to their feet."

Michael Uthoff
Artistic Director, Dance St. Louis



"Without cheap theatrics, they brought humor and strength with simple props, meaningful audio and strong projected images. *Evil and Good* challenged us to think critically about how we make decisions in life and the fine grey between the positive and negative impact of our decisions, which is something we strive to teach our students. We can't wait to see what they'll do next! They never disappoint audiences with their easy versatility, creative directing, aesthetic beauty and though-provoking content."

Lana Rogachevskaya
Executive Director, Governors State Center for the Performing Arts



"Students and faculty alike had nothing but glowing feedback on the studio work. Jessica is a gifted artist, and a gifted teacher, and is a lovely, approachable human being on top of all that! And the production of "Evil & Good" was everything we hoped for: challenging, thrilling, colorful, and provocative. When Peter and I started Xfest, one of our goals was to showcase work that was experimental/alternative, but also accessible and moving to lay audiences. Dance Crash exemplifies this in the best way. It was an honor to work with you all again. You bring out the best in our students and in our audiences. I sincerely hope that we will be able work together again."

Chuck Harper
Artistic Director, SIUe Xfest
Head of Performance, Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville

"Chicago Dance Crash put on a wonderful show for our students and our community. The dancers were amazing - virtuosic, high energy, each with their particular style and personality. And the fusion of dance styles in the work made for a varied, continuously surprising evening. They had our usually quite reserved students shouting and cheering by the end of the show. Thank you Chicago Dance Crash, you guys are awesome!"

Kaela Lee
Director of Dance, College of the Holy Cross

"Chicago Dance Crash's residency at Salem State University was a wonderful experience to have on campus! The company members taught a variety of challenging workshops that pushed our students' talents. The SSU students overwhelming loved the company, commenting that they were amazing, but each member was friendly and encouraging. This residency was extremely positive, and our students were inspired for weeks afterwards. I think many of them want to move to Chicago!"

Meghan McLyman
Dance Program Coordinator, Salem State University

Press

"Very few dance companies know as much about connecting with an audience as Dance Crash does, and the connections between the members of the company are vividly evident whenever you see them perform." -Huffington Post

"Like a Synergy drink or a Kombucha, Chicago Dance Crash is a pure mix of unadulterated, raw ingredients: a potent surprise upon first taste, and deliciously smooth by drinks end. It's not about additives for this crew's natural movers." -TimeOut Chicago

"A typical Dance Crash concert breaks boundaries and leans athletics and fun. No wonder the troupe has an avid following." -Chicago Tribune

"Crash brings a compelling mixture of ballet, breakdancing, hip hop, martial arts and dangerous acrobatics into seamless alignment." -Chicago Tribune

"Perhaps most remarkable about Chicago Dance Crash is its ability to manage an image that is consistently cool, yet unabashedly committed to taking risks and reaching outside its comfort zone."
-Arts Intercepts

"...a marvelously cohesive and physically fearless group."
-Chicago Sun-Times

"Talk about making quality dance that's accessible to an enormous audience!"
-Gapersblock.com

"A Dance Show for People Who Don't Like Dance"
-Chicago Tribune

"Brilliant." -Chicago Theatre Beat

"From lights down, this show crushes it!"
-ChicagoNow.com

"I never ever got bored." -Ada Gray (7 years old)

