

# Chicago Dance Crash



# Chicago Dance Crash

773.301.4310 info@chicagodancecrash.com www.ChicagoDanceCrash.com

## 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 hip hop/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 street dance techniques in works ranging from full-length productions to repertory pieces and freestyles.

Providing a wide array of works, Crash'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, award shows, subways, and floating atop Lake Michigan. Within the last several seasons, Crash 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" by the Chicago Reader, hailed by Newcity Stage as one of the top two dance companies to emerge from Chicago within the past decade, and most recently was acknowledged for creating "The Most Inventive Work of 2017" in the U.S. by Dance Magazine.

The company's nine-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 pre-professional 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 recent touring engagements include commissioned performances/workshops in NYC, San Francisco, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Iowa City, Tulsa, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Boston, Detroit, Buffalo as well as locally. [www.chicagodancecrash.com](http://www.chicagodancecrash.com).



## Artistic Director, Jessica Deahr



“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 produced one of the country's fastest-rising, award-winning 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 Joel Hall while “gigging” for print, film, and stage projects ranging from Google & McDonalds to Vanilla Ice & the Betty Ford Foundation.

Creatively in recent years, 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, 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.

Touring Program 2019 (Full length productions)

# Lil Pine Nut

## The Learning Curve of Pinocchio

Choreography by Jessica Deahr & KC Bevis  
11 dancers. 80 minutes in two acts.

**“This piece is so clever and beguiling, it would make an ideal touring show, not only for the adult audiences it has already attracted, that could easily win over the high school crowd.”**

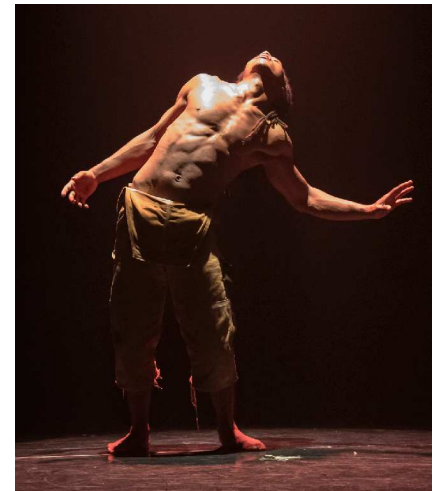
-PBS

**“I wondered if Crash could exceed or even meet the bar they set with the excellent ‘Bricklayers of Oz.’ You can rest assured, reader, that lightning does indeed strike twice in the same place.”**

-Chicago Tribune



**This isn't the one where his nose gets longer.** Based thoroughly on the controversial 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel, “The Adventures of Pinocchio” by political satirist Carlo Collodi, Dance Crash’s newest hip hop production tells the story of a puppet-come-to-life and the learning curve that goes with negotiating how to be a “real live boy.” Ditch school or honor your father? Get rich quick or stay the course? Lil Pine Nut breakdances his way through Jo Fox & Side Cat’s hoaxes, Mangiofuoco’s empty promises, and the tough love from the Lady with the Turquoise Hair. This production is appropriate and appreciated by both children and grown-ups alike and is available for your viewing pleasure! #LilPineNut



# Touring Program 2019 (Full length productions)

## “The Bricklayers of Oz”

The hip hop origin story  
of the Yellow Brick Road.

Choreography by Jessica Deahr  
Original lyrics by Chicago Emcee Al Tamper  
13 dancers. 75 minutes in two acts.

“There is something about Jessica Deahr’s ingenious new hip-hop dance-theater piece that is so imaginative, so playfully revisionist, and so superbly realized by all the artists involved, that it feels like an instant classic all its own.”

-Chicago Sun-Times

**DANCE**  
magazine  
**AWARDS**  
2017

Most Inventive New Work!



“...as compelling as it is entertaining, a full-frenzied display of Dance Crash’s signature hip-hop style that’s buoyed by a surprisingly poignant story line.”  
-Chicago Reader

“...so original, so bursting with freshness on every level, and so polished, it literally sparkles from start to finish. As much fun as “Bricklayers” is, the production never loses sight of its message, which is poignant, universal, and even-handed in its delivery.” -SeeChicagoDance

Who sweeps up the confetti in Munchkinland?  
Who paves the roads and waters the flowers?

As the flagship production of Crash's historic 15th Anniversary Season, ‘Bricklayers’ is an action-packed, lighthearted street tale of the lesser-known laborers that toil within The Land of Oz. Crash's hip hop fusion style full of flips & spins help tell the story of the Wicked Witch and her plan to coax others into building her a magical road (that was originally supposed to be silver!). #BricklayersofOz



# Touring Program 2019 (Full length production)

## KTF The 'Keeper of the Floor' Championship

(There are far too many reviews and web hits to list here. Please simply google "KTF Dance Crash" and stalk the show.)



Crash's longest running production matches competitive dance with the energy of late-night theatre and the spectacle of sports entertainment, featuring some of the city's most accomplished dancers assembled for battle on your stage. Combining the drive of competition with the energy of a rock concert, Chicago's ONLY full-scale, audience-voted dance competition welcomes all comers, from breakers and ballerinas to belly dancers and tappers. YOU decide who wins the golden KTF title belt! And, of course, the night will be hosted by motivational speaker and TV personality, Mr. Mattrick Swayze!

To be clear, this evening-length show is a legitimate audience applause-voted dance battle between our own Company dancers as they compete in several hilarious and exciting movement rounds to win the solid gold KTF belt. The show, being almost entirely freestyle, can be geared towards your community, your cause, your taste in music, your fashion sense, and your in-jokes. Enjoy!



# Touring Program 2019 (Repertory Works)

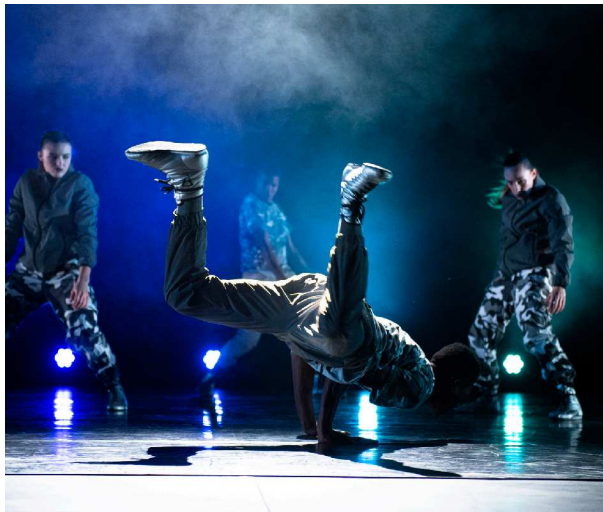
<http://chicagodancecrash.com/videos/>

## **“The Generator”**

Choreography by Jessica Deahr  
Music: Boreta, BMD, and Apparat  
4 or 5 Dancers.

“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



## **“Leap of Faith”**

Choreography by Jessica Deahr  
Music by Inori, Clipping and the Physical Science Study Committee.  
6-8 Dancers.

## **“A Battle in the Sky” Based on the poem by Shel Silverstein**

Choreography by Richard Ashworth  
Music by KAMAU  
4 Dancers.

“In Rich Ashworth’s beautifully detailed “A Battle in the Sky,” two teams of two face off; KC Bevis, McMahon, Kelsey Reiter and Porscha Spells absolutely nail the musicality of this very musical work.” -Chicago Tribune



## **“Sisters”**

Choreography by Jessica Deahr  
Music by Rosemary Clooney  
2 Dancers.



# Touring Program 2019 (Repertory Works cont.)



**“The Campaign”** Excerpt from **“Evil & Good”**  
Choreography by Jessica Deahr  
Music by Coin Locker Kid  
5 Dancers.

**“The Two Inside”**  
Choreography by Jessica Deahr  
Music by Chopin and Radiohead  
6-10 Dancers.



**“Heard That”**  
(excerpt from ‘New Alaska’)  
Choreography by Jessica Deahr  
Music by Extrawelt & Murcof  
5-6 Dancers.  
“...features some impressive dancing, responding to the hesitations and burps of techno.” -Chicago Tribune

**“Sikeena”**  
(excerpt from ‘Al Nafs’)  
Music by Oum & Erykah Badu  
7-9 Dancers

...and more listed on our  
[Youtube channel](#) and  
[website!](#)



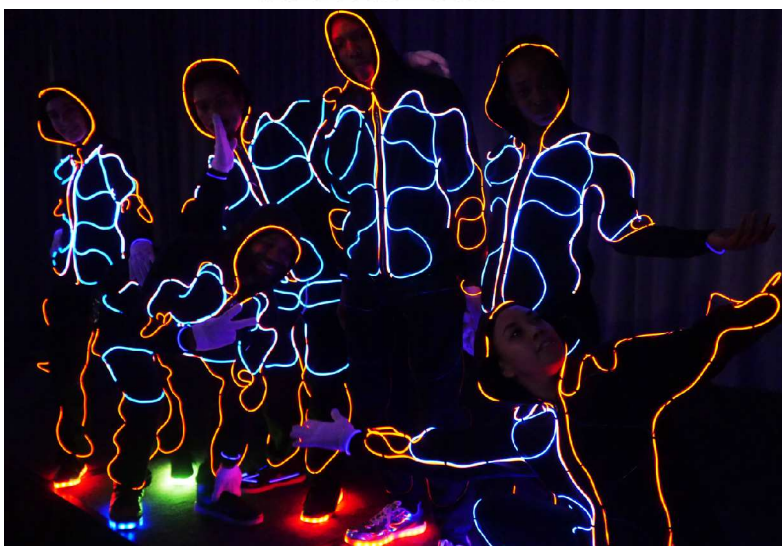
# Touring Program 2019 (Freestyles & Cyphers)

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

Learn more in the “Outreach and Education Kit” on our bookings page.

## 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” and “Hip Hop 101” Programs

Performing over 60 outreach engagements every season, our multi-faceted outreach events including dance instruction, lecture

demonstrations, interactive discovery, and performances dedicated to the growth of art, society, and self through cultural respect and understanding.

Our *Diversity* program discusses how 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 while *Hip Hop 101* is a historical breakdown of America’s most famous dance form including lectures/demos, movement instruction and direct patron participation.

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. I sincerely hope that we will be able work together again."

**Chuck Harper - Artistic Director, SIUe Xfest**

"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**

"We have never presented a dance group here, so we did not know how our audience would respond to the program. I have to say, having Chicago Dance Crash here has been the highlight of our season. The entire ensemble was accommodating to our facility and fun to work with. The audience was engaged the entire time. I was surprised by the large number of young people who attended the performance - I think they have started a fan club here. We will be bringing CDC back for a residency! What a great introduction to dance for my audience. Thank you!"

**Sandra Madden - Executive Director, Campanile Center for the Performing Arts**

# 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)

