



Chicago DanceCrash

Hip Hop / Contemporary Dance

Jessica Deahr, Artistic Director



"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

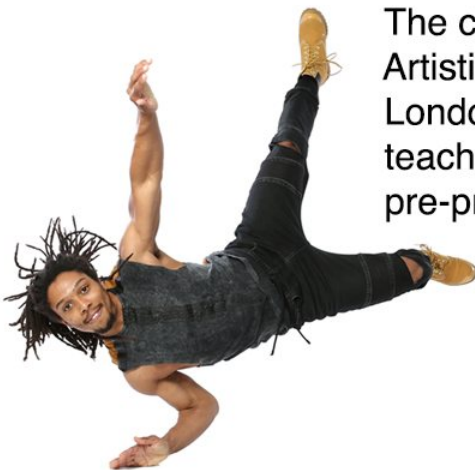
"Think Matthew Bourne, but with a more primitive, ritualistic, streetwise attack." -Dance Magazine

Founded in 2002, Chicago Dance Crash has emerged as the premier hip hop/contemporary dance company in the Midwest. Emphasizing a 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 and moving trains. Within the last several seasons, Crash has been featured on Italian, French, and American television as well as nationally recognized print/digital mediums. 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 since the early 2000's, and most recently was acknowledged for creating "The Most Inventive Work" in the U.S. by Dance Magazine.

The company's eight-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, boutique roster member of Jodi Kaplan & Associates and is primarily represented by Performance Management International (PMI).



ChicagoDanceCrash.com

Photos by Julia Nash

Chicago Dance Crash *open-air!*

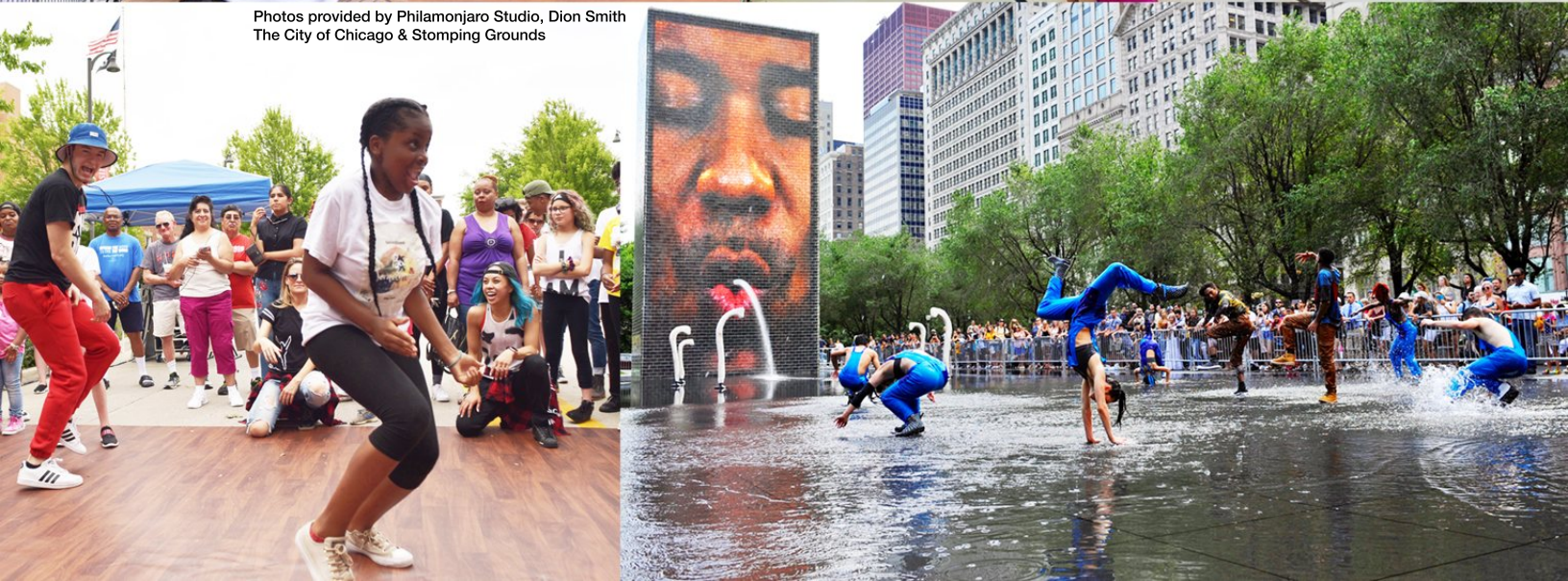
Put on your mask and let the sun shine!

The rules are changing and Chicago Dance Crash is well-equipped to accommodate these new normals. With a 17+ year history of outdoor & site-specific works, our organization is prepared to captivate your audience in **NEW** and exciting performance areas such as parks, outdoor pavilions, street stages and local landmarks.

- ☀️ Most Crash repertory have “low-tech” options suitable for outdoors.
- ☀️ Classes easily apply to open-air street & park festivals.
- ☀️ As always, “special request” freestyles & original works can be made to consider a specific location you have in mind. Crash has created original, one-time performances in lagoons, fountains, gardens and city boardwalks among other sites so nothing is impossible!



Photos provided by Philamonjaro Studio, Dion Smith
The City of Chicago & Stomping Grounds



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

Artistic Director 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.



NOW TOURING

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, but 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 on the controversial 19th 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

Photos by Ashley Deran



NOW TOURING

KTF

The Keeper of The Floor

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

It's our famous Dance-Battle-For-Hire!

Crash's longest-running production matches competitive dance with the spontaneity 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!

In plainspeak, 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 crown a champion. 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!

Photos by Ashley Deran



NOW TOURING

Site-Specific
Works,
Freestyles,
Cyphers
and...

MAKE YOUR OWN

A "Crash-by-Request" work can be 3-45 minutes in length with a cast of any size in almost any performance area.

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.

Past commercial clients include...



Photos provided by Uniqlo, Live.Love.Life., The City of Chicago, Stomping Grounds & House of the Good Shepherd

NOW TOURING

CURRENT REPERTORY

For those wanting a
“normal dance concert”

A more conventional and often budget-friendly option; Chicago Dance Crash repertory works are typically shorter pieces ranging from 4-7 minutes and including 2-8 dancers created by some of the top hip hop and contemporary dancemakers in the country including from our own artistic director.

Most pieces have low-tech options and range from ‘concert hip hop’ to athletic contemporary – performed to music ranging from Broadway tunes and classical to Top 40 hits and Chicago originals. Rep concerts are often combined with freestyles unique to the event’s specifics and can include creative explanations, post-show Q&A sessions and photo opportunities.

A very popular option... repertory concerts can be “opened” by companies or dance artists local to your community or school!

Specific works are selected by Dance Crash and depend on touring availability. To guarantee your favorite pieces can be made available, be sure to book as far ahead as possible! Excerpts of repertory can be seen under the “Available for Tour” playlist on the Chicago Dance Crash Youtube channel.

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

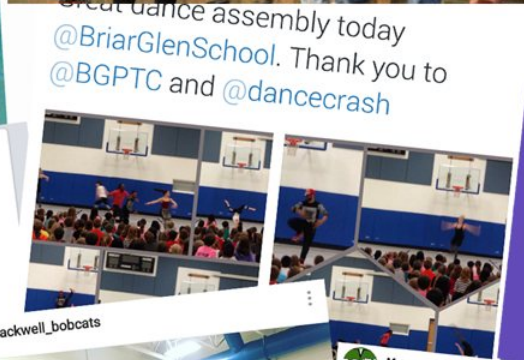
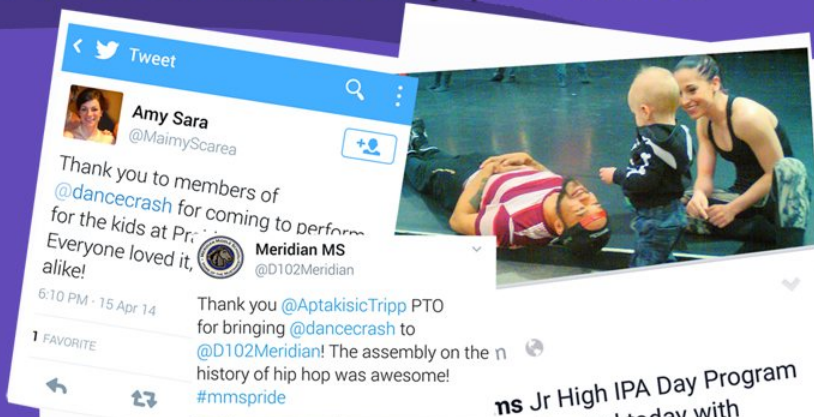
Outreach & Education

Performing for 50+ schools & community centers every season, Crash has a menu of programs focusing on fun, culture and diversity.

Community events include current repertory & freestyles garnished with creative explanations of each work as well as Q&A sessions and beginner-level hip hop classes.

Students of all aptitudes are taught by our highly-trained professional instructors dedicated to an accessible curriculum with clearly defined goals including fun and interactive lessons in a positive & safe environment.

Student lecture/demonstration performances are each 40-55 minutes long and include 5-6 dancers. Current shows in rotation include our "Hip Hop 101" & "Growth Thru Diversity" performances.



“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

“Perhaps most remarkable about 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



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



**Two-time winner:
Black Theater
Alliance Awards**

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

“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.” –TimeOut Magazine

“...so original, so bursting with freshness on every level, and so polished, it literally sparkles from start to finish.” -SeeChicagoDance

“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



Photo by Ashley Deran

"As always it was great seeing Crash tear the stage apart. 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. 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! 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**

"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 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**



Photo by Philamonjaro Studio

Photos provided by Ashley Deran, Jaqlin Medlock, The City of Chicago, Sarah Larson, Quad City Arts & The Numbered Days



Take a moment and stalk us in this order 😊

