

# CHICAGO DANCE CRASH

## OUTREACH AND DANCE EDUCATION



### ABOUT THE COMPANY

A Chicago Dance Crash Performance Season contains 3 different arms; a Chicago-based season of world premier productions, a domestic & international touring schedule of repertory and an educational outreach component provided to schools and arts-in education institutions all across the state of Illinois. In the area of outreach, Dance Crash currently extends its educational programming to a very wide demographic in terms of age, location and socioeconomic status. Most notably, the primary recipient of our local outreach efforts have been and will continue to be black and Hispanic youth in primarily underserved urban areas of Chicagoland. CDC currently embraces its unique ability to meet a student body on their terms with creative cultural aesthetics that are immediately familiar to them and then fusing this with movement processes that might be more foreign. Ultimately, whether a school assembly begins with a breakdancing set or a ballet variation, it inevitably culminates with the fusion of all presented styles and an applicable lesson in tolerance, positive expression and diversity. With an extensive background in teaching and student-based activities, Crash has created programs for elementary schools, universities, libraries, and community centers all across the country. Always able to command attention & inspire, Crash programs are created with the Illinois Board of Education's social emotional learning standards (SEL), The CPS Arts Education plan and the Fine Arts Standards Illinois State Goals in mind with a special emphasis on fun and culture.

### MEET THE ARTISTS

Creatively led by Artistic Director KC Bevis, CRASH is a multi-disciplinary dance company with a mission of amplifying a vibrant tapestry of voices within the intersection of street and concert dance, allowing for new avenues of discovery and innovation in Chicago and on the global stage. Chicago Dance Crash's diverse repertoire and performing ensemble embodies their dedication to being an accessible and innovative dance company that appeals to audiences of all ages, cultures, and income levels. They dance to change lives, and as such, they present dance that they believe is invigorating and inclusive, that newcomers will be curious and motivated to see.



## MEET THE ARTISTS *continued*

The heart of the CRASH lies within its' 8- person ensemble and dedicated teaching artists. These artists are ambassadors of artistic excellence, community, culture and inclusivity. Combining for decades of professional performance and teaching experience, the ensemble's training background ranges from New York to LA, China, Germany, Jamaica, France and Chicago's Southside.

Consistently featured in performance festivals here in the U.S., Crash dancers' TV credits include programs in Italy, France, and back here at home including "So You Think You Can Dance."As a collective whole, the Dance Crash team is versed and ready to perform, teach, speak on, and freestyle hip hop, breaking, popping, tutting, waving, social dances, jazz, ballet, modern dance and countless other techniques.

### ABOUT OUR PERFORMANCES

With each performance catered differently towards the audience's age range, the development of Chicago Dance Crash's unique 'fusion-style' aesthetic is used as a backdrop to explain how the creative process ultimately works.

**Step 1:** Educate...Crash dancers isolate and explain the origins and most notable aspects of individual styles, not only in a live solo performance but also in a brief lesson on how/why the style was created as well as what the movement, contextually, means for its performers.

**Step 2:** Experiment...The students get in on the action as they help play 'director' and discover what comes out of giving Crash fun performance obstacles, stipulations, and suggestions. What yet-to-be-invented dance style are we discovering when we combine influences from each dance style?

**Step 3:** Enjoy...These lessons and games are garnished with freestyles, student dance battles and interactive exercises. Once isolated and remolded right in front of their eyes, it quickly becomes apparent how much knowledge and discipline goes into making something so much fun!



### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- PA system with an auxillary hookup and cord
- One microphone (preferably wireless)
- Minimum 20x12 performance space with clean floor
- Access to electricity

## Crash performs for 40+ schools per year!

*Past clients of educational programming include:*

Dawes Elementary School  
Nathan Hale Elementary  
John Charles Haines Elementary  
Harriet E. Sayre Academy  
St. Bruno Catholic  
Joseph Kellman Corporate School  
St. Daniel the Prophet School  
Mary E. Courtney Academy  
Minnie Mars Jamieson Elementary  
Riverside Elementary  
George Rogers Clark Elementary  
Horace Greeley Elementary  
James Weldon Johnson Elementary  
Stone Academy  
St. Lucy School  
Talman Elementary  
Stone Scholastic  
William Penn Elementary  
University NC Wilmington  
Mark Twain Elementary  
Western Illinois University  
East Prairie High School  
St. Angela School  
Bloom Trail Auditorium  
Bloom Trail HS  
Medgar Evers Elementary  
Elizabeth H. Sutherland Elementary  
Highland Park High School  
Chicago Christian HS  
Harold Washington Library  
Seward Academy  
Harold Colbert Jones Memorial  
Alphonsus Academy  
Daniel C. Beard Elementary  
Burr Ridge Middle School  
Richard Henry Lee Elementary  
Jane Addams Elementary  
Lincoln Middle School  
Lincolnwood Elementary  
Family Focus Lawndale  
Copeland Manor School  
North Shore Lower School  
Scott Elementary  
University of Iowa  
Logan Center for the Arts  
Mark Twain Elementary  
Morton School of Excellence  
After School Matters  
Glen Grove Elementary



## PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

### “GROWTH THROUGH DIVERSITY” PROGRAM

Growth Through Diversity is a multi-faceted outreach event including dance instruction, interactive discovery, and performances dedicated to the growth of art and self through cultural understanding. The origins of ballet in Italy, and modern, jazz and hip hop in the U.S. are as influential to their own movement vocabularies as they are to the lifestyles embraced by their practitioners. In relating the origins of these forms to others we can better understand the importance of diversity in our lives and community. This performance encourages the students to take influence from the world around them and create their own means of self expression.

### “HIP HOP 101” LECTURE DEMONSTRATION

This highly-interactive performance focuses on the history of dance styles within hip hop culture including breaking (breakdance), popping, waving, social dances, and more. Students will learn about the development of this world wide phenomenon, from the influential years of funk and freestyle to choreography seen in today's popular culture. The techniques are isolated down to the pure “1's and 2's,” showing students how creative thinking, grit and improvisation can culminate into show-stopping skills. With an emphasis on community, diversity and culture, Breakin' It Down will introduce students to more than just the history behind hip hop dancing, it will encourage them to find their own voice and use dance as a means of self-expression.

### DANCE RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS

Contemporary, modern, creative movement exploration, and breakdancing are all aspects of Chicago Dance Crash's various dance residencies. 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. Typically, residencies include 2-3 sessions a week for 50-90 minutes ranging from 4 weeks to the entire school year. Number of instructors is based on class size. If applicable, residencies can culminate with a student-performed showcase or in-school performance.



## PROGRAMMING OPTIONS *continued*

### FIELD TRIPS

Bring your students to any of Crash's local productions for an unforgettable experience! Scheduled around the Company's existing performance Season, an audience of any size can witness Crash on the professional level complete with optional backstage access and post-show talkbacks with your students. Field trips can be part of a general performance, a dress rehearsal, or even a private performance created specifically for your students and community.

### IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Or better yet, bring Crash's performance Season directly to your school! The Company's current touring repertory is at your disposal and can be selected or added to depending on your wants and needs. In-school performances can range from 30-90 minutes and can include an optional student talkback session and premiere freestyle performances geared towards your event. For more information on current repertory, please refer to the downloadable "Arts Events Kit" provided at [www.chicagodancecrash.com/book-crash/](http://www.chicagodancecrash.com/book-crash/).

### PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Play different songs and ask students to move how the music makes them feel (play a classical song, salsa, appropriate hip hop). Afterwards, have a discussion about why they chose to move the way they did? Why do certain styles of dance go with certain styles of music?
2. Have students work in groups to research different styles of dance, looking into history, famous dancers, video clips, etc. Ask groups to share their findings with the classroom.



### POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Have your own classroom dance battle! Remind students of all the different dance styles and encourage them to incorporate what they learned or saw during the show. Encourage students to get creative and have fun!
2. Classroom Discussion: Why do people dance? Why is it important in society?
3. Free-write: What style of dance did you enjoy the most? What did you like about it?



# CONTACT

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## Parent Testimonial: The incredible impact of live performance

ANNA JORANGER

*It's almost Thanksgiving, and we are grateful for the opportunity to spread the inspiration of the arts to more Chicago-area youth with every passing year. To celebrate this inspiration, here's a quote from a parent who worked with Urban Gateways to bring a touring performance by Chicago Dance Crash ("[History of Dance From Ballet to Breakdancing](#)") to their child's school. You can learn more about our touring performances [HERE](#). Enjoy, and Happy Thanksgiving!*

"I wanted to let you know how impressed I was with Chicago Dance Crash and that the performance was a tremendous success yesterday. The kids, staff and parents really loved it! **Multiple parents have told me that their kids -- who usually say 'nothing happened at school today' -- came home talking about the show and the dancers and what they learned.** Parents who didn't even know their kids liked dance have recanted stories of impromptu dances on the sidewalks or at their dinner tables last night. The excitement from the morning's performance seemed to last all day!

"I have to tell you, my favorite part of the performance came during the audience participation break dance battle. A kindergartner was called up on stage to be in one of the dance battle groups and he is a kid who is known to be a bit tough and to have some disciplinary issues. When his turn came to do his dance, he killed it. **He walked off the stage with his head held a little higher, knowing that his classmates just saw him in a different, more positive light.** This is one of those unquantifiable moments that reinforces the importance of all kinds of learning in school, particularly when it comes to the value of incorporating the arts into the school day. The look on his face as he bowed to the applause from the crowd was something I won't forget."

