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Billy Siegenfeld Named Dance Chicago 2011 Choreographer Of The Year

Other Award Winners Announced

CHICAGO, December 15, 2011 – Dance Chicago, in conjunction with the Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation, awarded Billy Siegenfeld of *Jump Rhythm Jazz Project*, the **2011 Dance Chicago Choreographer of the Year** Award. Mr. Siegenfeld was selected based on the volume and depth of the three premiere and distinctive works he created. Those premiere dances were: *You Do Not Have To Be Good*, *There Never Was A War That Was Not Inward* and *The Sumptuous Screech Of Simplicity*.

In addition to the **Choreographer of the Year** award, winners were announced for the Dance Chicago 2011 *Outstanding Choreographer (Body of Work)* Award for their significant contributions to the 2011 festival, they are:

- Mark Howard (*Trinity Irish Dancers*) and Ron DeJesus (*Ron DeJesus Dance*)

The Dance Chicago Outstanding Choreography Awards (*New Voice*) are:

- Benjamin Marshall, Jr. (*Ultimatum Dance Company*) and Anne Forest (*Inspire Dance Company*)

The Dance Chicago Outstanding Choreography Award (*Team Choreography*) was awarded to:

- Lauren Miles & Tanisha Brewer (*The Crucial Step Clique*)

The Dance Chicago festival climaxed on a high note with the audience and media favorite, *Choreographer's Showcase*. This performance showcased the premiere works of local and national guest choreographers through accomplished dancers. From beginning to end, Dance Chicago was a high energy and fast-paced experience for audiences. The festival kicked off with a full house at Mandel Hall at the University of Chicago in October with the **Dance Slam** competition. **Dance Slam** is one of Chicago's largest dance competitions of its kind in which the audience as well as a panel of judges vote to determine the winners. Listed below are the winners for each category. For a full list of winners please visit www.dancechicago.com

Dance Slam Winners

Total Points Winners- Chicago Multicultural Dance Center / Bryant Youth Professionals- *Flight*

Choreography Winners- Ultimatum Dance Company- *Signs*

Production Winners- Chicago Multicultural Dance Center / Bryant Youth Professionals- *Flight*

Technique Winners- Curie Metropolitan High School for the Performing & Technical Arts- *Nihilism*

"Judges Pick" Winners- On Your Toes- *Marching On*

Celebrating its 17th season, this year Dance Chicago featured 17 exciting nights of performances from more than 250 companies/choreographers, and 200+ world premiers at the newly remodeled Stage 773 theatre. According to Sid Smith of the *Chicago Tribune*, Dance Chicago is "a mini-convention spreading the news of what Chicago's dance scene has to offer, the festival continues to intermingle every conceivable style of dance in work ranging from the expert to the amateur. That democratic spirit is part of its energy."

"I was inspired by the magnitude of talent from all of the Chicago land area choreographers whose works hit the stage at this year's festival, I feel that this may have been one of our most exciting seasons to date", said John Schmitz, artistic director and curator of Dance Chicago. Schmitz goes on to say "We are very pleased with the success of this year's festival as well as all of the support of the Chicago Dance Community from our patrons and we hope that next year will be even bigger and better".

The next performance for Dance Chicago will be its premiere *Dances From The Heart* performance that will take place on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012. The performance will take place at the Athenaeum Theatre at 7:30 pm. This will be Dance Chicago's first performance at the Athenaeum Theatre since 2008. For more information and to purchase tickets after December 20th. go to athenaeumtheatre.org.

Dance Chicago has entertained over 200,000 people around the world with its unique styles of dance since 1994. To find more information on Dance Chicago please visit www.dancechicago.com

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PHOTOS

Photos are available by contacting Tim Ward at tward@h-a-intl.com or 312-332-4650, ext. 18

ABOUT DANCE CHICAGO

Artistic Director and Curator John Schmitz founded dance Chicago in 1995. The event, now celebrating its seventeenth anniversary season, is the cornerstone of the fall dance season. From major companies like the Joffrey Ballet and the Dutch National Ballet to the new small dance troupes and young independent artists, Dance Chicago continues to offer the broadest range of dance styles from over 200 choreographers. The 2011 season opened Saturday, October 15th at the University of Chicago, Mandel Hall. Dance Chicago then moved to the Stage 773 (1225 West Belmont in Chicago) from November 2nd-20th for 3-week festival of dance. For roster of participating companies please visit www.dancechicago.com.

DANCE CHICAGO SPONSORS

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The Illinois Arts Council, a stage agency

The University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement

Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation (exclusive sponsor of the Dance Chicago 2011 Choreographer of the Year Award – CODY)