

**WORLD'S OLDEST, MOST INNOVATIVE FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN TAP DANCE,  
RHYTHM WORLD, RUNS JULY 16 - 22 IN CHICAGO**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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In just a few weeks, July 16-21, [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP) will present its 28<sup>th</sup> annual Rhythm World festival which has grown to become the biggest, most celebrated and longest-running tap dance festival in the world!

Revered as an American dance form, tap has taken the world by storm with festivals in major cities across Asia, Europe, Central, North and South America. In the USA, the Chicago Human Rhythm Project has kept the beat going for 30 years, so it's fitting that Chicago is home to this biggest, best and longest running festival.

[Rhythm World](#), an education and performance festival, runs July 16–22, 2018. Directed by CHRP Founder and Director, Lane Alexander and Artist in Residence, Dani Borak, this annual summer festival features world renowned performers, choreographers and teachers who have led and transformed the field of American tap for five decades.

Rhythm World includes scores of courses, master classes, and workshops, the 18th Annual Youth Tap Ensemble Conference, the only STOMP intensive in the world, and a comprehensive Teacher Certification program. See more on the Rhythm World Education Program below.

Concerts will feature three generations of tap masters performing works from the beloved traditional to new, electrifying and innovative styles. The highlights of the festival include:

**Monday, July 16, 7:30pm, Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court.**

Rhythm World kicks off at Jazz Showcase! The night features some of the world's most renowned hoofers in an evening dedicated to improvisation, with the Eric Hochberg Trio. Proceeds benefit CHRP's Tap Scholar and arts education programs which serve gifted youth as well as K-12 Chicago Public Schools. *Tickets are priced \$10 - \$35. Purchase tickets [here](#).*

The culminating events of Chicago's prized citywide festival, Rhythm World are the **JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance** performances on Friday, July 20 and Saturday, July 21. Each show is completely distinct.

**Friday, July 20, 7:30pm, Studebaker Theater, Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.**

An evening packed with extraordinary foot drummers and percussive arts masters from around the globe sharing the stage – Superstars Caleb Teicher and Sam Weber join forces for a world premiere American tap duet; CHRP's Stone Soup Rhythms ensemble will premiere innovative, multi-dimensional choreography led by Dani Borak, Artist in Residence; Brazilian Charles Renato will collaborate with master percussionist Geraldo de Oliveira; Broadway and concert artist Ayodele Casel will showcase her signature blend of compositional and technical prowess alongside powerful femininity; and hooper extraordinaire Jason Janas will premiere new work performed to his own musical compositions before joining together for a trio jam session; and, virtuoso Cartier Williams will perform his newest show, Zigity Bop! with special guests Star

Dixon, Luke Hickey and Aqura Lacey. *JUBA! tickets are priced \$15 - \$55 each night. Purchase tickets [here](#).*

**Saturday, July 21, 7:30pm, Studebaker Theater, Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.**

Another extraordinary evening unfolds with Stone Soup Rhythms ensemble premiering more new works by Dani Borak; family members Bril Barrett, Ja'Bowen and Star Dixon will perform a striking trio followed by solos by Tre Dumas and Nico Rubio; and finally, Rhythm World closes with Rhythm ISS reuniting the original members of the influential, all-female tap dance company from the late 90s! (I)della Reed-Davis, (S)arah Savelli, and (S)haron Rushing have assembled an amazing cast of Chicago-based female hoofers to join them in revisiting the company's intricate rhythms and signature style with a special appearance by the legendary Dianne "Lady Di" Walker! *JUBA! tickets are priced \$15 - \$55 each night. Purchase tickets [here](#).*

**More Rhythm World!**

**Tuesday, July 17, 6:30pm and 8:00pm, Curtis Hall, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.** Two audience favorites, the student improv tournament, known as the "cutting contest," and the student showcase take place with faculty judges choosing the winners who may be invited to perform on one of the two weekend performances at the Studebaker Theater. *Tickets are \$5 at the door.*

**Wednesday, July 18, 6:30pm Navy Pier Polk Bros Performance Lawns.** In this outdoor setting, Rhythm World will present the Chicago premier of Jason Janas and his company, Co.MMIT and Charles Renato's company, CHR Project\*. The program will also feature America's finest pre-professional companies from around the United States as a part of the Youth Tap Ensemble Conference including the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble and Footprints Tap Ensemble. *This concert is free and open to the public.*

\*PLEASE NOTE: Charles Renato's company name, "CHR Project" correlates to **CH**arles **R**enato and should not be confused with Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) which shares a similar acronym.

**Rhythm World Education Programs at the Fine Arts Bldg. and American Rhythm Center, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.**

CHRP is proud to shine a special spotlight on a new generation of dancers who have grown up with the inspiration of these great masters for more than a quarter century.

"This is the fourth year for CHRP's "Root and Branch" program which focuses on the dancers who studied with us 10, 15 or 20 years ago. These accomplished young artists have grown up they are winning MacArthur Fellowship Awards (Michelle Dorrance), choreographing on Broadway and with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (Jared Grimes), performing in historic Broadway revivals (Lee Howard and Karissa Royster) and making new works that are revolutionizing our art form (Jumaane Taylor's *Supreme Love* and Zada Cheeks' *Diabolus*)," remarked Lane Alexander. "Most notably, one dancer, Dani Borak, our multi-year Artist in Residence, is providing new and fresh artistic direction for CHRP." In addition, former Tap Scholars and CHRP ensemble members who are returning to teach and/or perform this year include: Nico Rubio, Star Dixon, Megan Davis, Ja'Bowen Dixon, Time Brickey, Luke Hickey, and Sean Kaminski.

**Tap Scholar Awards**

Each year, CHRP awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving, talented teens so they may participate in Rhythm World's immersion programs. This year, more than a dozen students have earned full or partial scholarships to study at Rhythm World. "These scholarships support CHRP's mission to build community by bringing together students from different backgrounds and places to meet their local and international peers and study with great and emerging masters," said Alexander.

Established in 1995 to honor the life of CHRP Co-Founder Kelly Michaels, the Rhythm World Tap Scholar Award program has provided more than \$300,000 in financial aid to more than 300 talented, deserving young dancers from Chicago and throughout the United States as well as international exchange students.

### **Festival Education Programs, July 16-22**

A STOMP intensive residency led by STOMP cast members, courses, workshops, conferences for the field and master classes will be led by special guests Dianne "Lady Di" Walker and Sam Weber, and our highly-respected faculty including Linda Sohl- Ellison, Monti Ellison, Lane Alexander, Bril Barrett, Dani Borak, Marty Bronson, Ayodele Casel, Ja' Bowen Dixon, Star Dixon, Martin "Tre" Dumas, Luke Hickey, Jason Janas, Sean Kaminski, Stacy Letrice, Charles Renato, Nico Rubio, Sarah Savelli, Caleb Teicher, and Cartier Williams.

### **Intensive Residency**

Two members from the acclaimed cast of STOMP, John Angeles and Chicago native Artis Olds, are back to teach an exclusive **STOMP Residency**. This program, the only of its kind, will have students immersed in rhythm based learning with respect to body percussion, found object rhythms, campanology, and musical composition. With STOMP's unique perspective and experience students will walk away seeing the world filled with rhythmic possibility.

### **Conferences for the field**

Celebrating its 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary, CHRP's **Youth Tap Ensemble Conference (YTEC)** is the world's most comprehensive program available to pre-professional tap ensembles. Students work with masters on technique and improvisation, meet with specialists regarding related disciplines and learn new choreography. This year's YTEC choreography is from Jason Janas; the YTEC will students will perform on Navy Pier's Polk Bros Lawns on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

The **Teacher Certification Program** is in its second year and covers elements of tap history, repertory, pedagogy, physiology and music theory. The program is non-cumulative, meaning teachers may attend any year and receive a separate Certificate of Completion for each year. Teachers completing four consecutive years will receive a special Master Teacher Certification from CHRP.

### **Courses**

Throughout the week we offer courses for students of all ages and levels. The **Courses** are for students aged 8 - 80 with classes ranging from intermediate to professional level! Join fellow tap dancers from around the world for four days of daily training to study and grow yourself as a percussive artist.

CHRP also offers a program exclusively for adult dancers who have never stopped dancing! Our **Adult Program** will be focused on dancers ranging from fast beginner to intermediate skill level. These classes, which are at the end of the work day, enable community practitioners and hobbyists to study with world renowned masters.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we have our **KIDS Tap Program** which offers intermediate tap dancers aged nine through twelve a curriculum including oral and video history, tap technique classes, improvisation instruction and individual development of style and expressive ability.

## **Workshops**

If you aren't tapped out, pun intended, at the end of the week, you will be able to immerse yourself with our master faculty in a 2.5 hr long workshop! The **Workshops** are designed so that students can experience a “deep dive” with Dianne Walker, Cartier Williams, Caleb Teicher, Dani Borak, Ayodele Casel or the members of STOMPs styles. Don't miss this rare opportunity to have a longer format class with these master faculty.

## **Masterclasses**

Don't have time off during the week to join us, we have weekend masterclasses! **Masterclasses** are a little over an hour and have levels ranging from fast beginner to professional grade classes. Saturday classes will be taught by our visiting master faculty while Sunday will host teachers from Chi-town itself. These are one-time taught classes so feel free to drop in for one or all classes throughout the weekend.

**To register, visit <https://chicagotap.org/rhythm-world-2018/>, call 312-542-CHRP (2477) or write to [registration@chicagotap.org](mailto:registration@chicagotap.org).**

**For complete Rhythm World information, visit [chicagotap.org](https://chicagotap.org) or call 312-542-CHRP (2477).**

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## **Chicago Human Rhythm Project**

The Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP), has helped to foster the revival of American tap dance in Chicago. Through its leadership for three decades, CHRP has helped to support new tap organizations throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia. CHRP presents the oldest and largest annual festival of American tap and percussive dance in the world—Rhythm World—and has expanded through community outreach, ongoing education programs in public elementary and high schools, commissions of new work, innovative conferences for the field and a commitment to social reconciliation and local investment. CHRP led the development of Chicago's shared dance/arts space, the American Rhythm Center, which offers daily dance classes for children, teens, adults and seniors and functions as a social enterprise and business development incubator for independent artists and small companies.

For nearly 30 years, CHRP has educated and performed globally for millions of people; received an Emmy Award nomination, as well as national airings, for *JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance*, which was co-produced with ITVS and WTTW/Channel 11; earned an NEA American Masterpieces grant administered by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; curated the first full-length tap concert in any of the Kennedy Center's three largest theaters for a sold-out audience of 1,100 in the Eisenhower Theater; provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in tap dance scholarships to more than 400 deserving, talented teens; and, most recently, led a collaborative effort to establish a shared dance/arts space in the center of the Chicago Cultural Mile: the American Rhythm Center (ARC). CHRP's vision is to establish the first global center for American tap and percussive arts, which will create a complete ecosystem of education,

performance, creation and community in a state-of-the-art facility uniting generations of diverse artists and the general public. For information, visit [chicagotap.org](http://chicagotap.org).

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