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CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT TO KICK OFF 5th ANNUAL STOMPING GROUNDS FESTIVAL WITH MAYUMANA'S "CURRENTS"

The Israeli Dance Company's Chicago Debut Will Take Place as Part of Chicago Human Rhythm Project's 30th Anniversary Season

CHICAGO – **Chicago Human Rhythm Project** today announced it will kick off its 5th Annual Stomping Grounds Festival with the Chicago debut of Mayumana's "Currents," Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Harris Theater for Music and Dance (205 E Randolph St). A striking combination of specially made instruments, percussive dance, world-class performers and storytelling through lights, sounds and visual effects, "[Currents](#)" was inspired by the historical Battle of Currents between Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla in their quest for finding energy sources for the world.

Positioned at the forefront of the percussive dance movement, [Chicago Human Rhythm Project's](#) 30-year run has impacted audiences in Chicago and across the globe, shaping and redefining how the world approaches the art of percussive dance presentation. Now in its fifth year, the organization's Stomping Grounds Festival is the largest percussive dance festival in the United States, bringing percussive dance performances from global and Chicago-based companies alike throughout the Festival's ten-week, city-wide run.

Boasting performers from around the globe, Tel Aviv-based [Mayumana](#) exists at the intersection of diverse talents, cultures and backgrounds.

"For 30 years, Chicago Human Rhythm Project has strived to celebrate and transcend differences between cultures and individuals, building communities through rhythm," said Lane Alexander, the organization's founder and director. "Mayumana not only shares in this mission, but personifies it, unifying audiences through their multimedia, multicultural productions and performances. They are the ideal company to kick off the Stomping Grounds Festival and we're thrilled to welcome them to Chicago for the very first time."

In "Currents," audience members will be taken on a journey between two troops, each representing a different view of the essence of light and electricity and each inspired by a different aesthetic and artistic approach, all of which are presented as a dialogue, through unique sounds, lights and visual effects. The show combines a variety of elements: specially made musical instruments, massive video art projections including video mapping originally designed for the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem and eleven skilled performers in constant movement, playing a variety of instruments and manipulating the texture of sound.

The power of each Mayumana creation comes from the strong emphasis placed on the unity and synchronization of the group as a whole while celebrating and highlighting the talent and beauty of each individual performer. Mayumana's playfulness extends beyond the stage, reaching out to engage in direct interactions with its audiences of all ages and cultures. After 16 years, with performers from more than 20 different nationalities, Mayumana has become one of Israel's leading cultural exports, having entertained millions of people around the world with its international touring cast, as well as in its home theatre, The Mayumana House, located at the old harbor of Jaffa.

Running from March 20 to May 31 with a preview event on March 18, Chicago Human Rhythm Project's Stomping Grounds Festival features free and affordable performances throughout the city from six of Chicago's most accomplished percussive dance companies at venues including Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago Cultural Center, Beverly Arts Center, DuSable Museum of African American History and more.

Tickets to Stomping Grounds Festival's Opening Night featuring Mayumana's "Currents" range from \$15 to \$55 and can be purchased at harristheaterchicago.org or by calling the Harris Theater Box Office at (312) 334-7777. For more information on Chicago Human Rhythm Project and the Stomping Grounds Festival, please visit chicagotap.org.

About Mayumana

In 1996, Elyon Nuphar and Boaz Berman, driven by their deep love for percussion and music, created the first Mayumana show. From around the world, Berman and Nuphar gathered a small group of gifted performers, each with diverse talents and contrasting backgrounds. Sparked by their shared passion for rhythm and coordination and fueled by their unique sense of humor and mischief, their group dynamic on stage was inexhaustible and infectious. Enriched by working with a multicultural cast, they all inspired each other to fulfill the individual's prowess in his/her area of expertise, while developing in all players the versatility to master other skills. This befits the name Mayumana, which comes from the Hebrew word for skill - Meyumanut. For more information, visit mayumana.com.

About Chicago Human Rhythm Project

Now in its 30th year, Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) has helped to foster the revival of American tap dance in Chicago, the USA and the world. Through its leadership for three decades, CHRP has helped to support new tap organizations throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia. CHRP presents Rhythm World, the oldest and largest annual festival of American tap and percussive dance, 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 audiences with generations of diverse artists. For information, visit chicagotap.org.

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