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THODOS DANCE CHICAGO'S 2014-15 SEASON IS *CHICAGO INSPIRED*

THE WHITE CITY, RECREATED WORKS BY CHICAGO DANCE ICON SYBIL SHEARER ARE INSPIRATIONS FOR AUDITORIUM THEATRE "MADE IN CHICAGO" CONCERT ON NOV. 29

THODOS DANCE TO EXPAND ON THEME WITH *CHICAGO INSPIRED* CONCERTS
FEB. 21 AT NORTH SHORE CENTER, MAR. 7 AT THE HARRIS

15TH *NEW DANCE* SERIES TO PRESENT THODOS' ENSEMBLE MEMBERS'
HOMEGROWN WORK JULY 18 & 19 AT THE ATHENAEUM

CHICAGO, November 21, 2014 – Thodos Dance Chicago launches its 23rd "Chicago Inspired" season Saturday, November 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre, kicking off the historic Chicago venue's 125th Anniversary "Made in Chicago" dance series.

Appropriately, the first act is *The White City, Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893*, the company's critically acclaimed ode to the Windy City's famous 1893 World's Fair, created by TDC Founder and Artistic Director **Melissa Thodos** and Tony Award-winning choreographer **Ann Reinking**. Named "Best Dance Performance" by the *Chicago Sun-Times* (2011), *The White City* is a 50-minute story ballet danced to original compositions by **Bruce Wolosoff**, based on actual events occurring just one year after the Auditorium Theatre opened its doors surrounding Chicago's Columbian Exposition as depicted in Erik Larson's best-seller, *Devil in the White City*.

The second act of mixed repertoire celebrates Chicago voices past and present with two original works by Chicago modern dance legend **Sybil Shearer**. For the first time, Thodos Dance, in partnership with the Morrison-Shearer Foundation and Shearer protégé Toby Nicholson, will debut amazing recreations of Shearer's 1956 dance suite, *Salute to Old Friends*, as well as her masterful 1961 *Time Longs for Eternity*. With video projectors simulcasting archival footage of Shearer performing the same works, it will seem as if one of Chicago's most influential dance icons is dancing on the Auditorium stage with the TDC ensemble. Completing the program are *Tsuru*, created by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Rehearsal Director **Lucas Crandall**, and *Lullaby* by independent choreographer **Brian Enos**.

Tickets are \$27-\$67 and are available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling **(800) 982-ARTS (2787)** or in-person at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office, 50 E Congress Pkwy, Chicago. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available at **(312) 341-2357** or sales@auditoriumtheatre.org.



From left 1) *The White City* by 2) Melissa Thodos and Ann Reinking. Works by 3) Sybil Shearer and 4) Lucas Crandall are also on the Auditorium program. Click [here](#) to download hi-and lo-res images.

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TDC ANNOUNCES *CHICAGO INSPIRED* WINTER CONCERTS, FEB. 21 AT NORTH SHORE CENTER, MAR. 7 AT THE HARRIS

Springing off the “Made in Chicago” theme, Thodos Dance Chicago’s 23rd Anniversary Winter Concerts, titled *Chicago Inspired*, promise a rich tapestry of dance ranging from rarely performed works by Chicago native and Broadway legend **Bob Fosse** to cutting edge present day creations with a vibrant Windy City edge.

The program includes a revival of TDC audience favorite *Fosse Trilogy*, a trio of three rarely performed works from Bob Fosse’s archives originally created for TV in the late 1960s, set on Thodos Dance more than 30 years later with new transition choreography by Broadway and film veteran and Fosse collaborator **Ann Reinking**.

“No one is better than Reinking at channeling the great man,” wrote the *Chicago Tribune* when *Fosse Trilogy* debuted in 2009, “and here she glories in the inimitable quirks, microscopic gestures and mischievous love of line and the body that make Fosse’s work irresistible.” *Dance Magazine* praised its “in-your-face theatricality” adding “clear intention, honest impulse and streamlined design characterize the subtle sophistication of Fosse’s aesthetic.”

Three 1960s pop songs - *Cool Hand Luke*, *Tijuana Shuffle* and *Mexican Breakfast* - are the retro score for this sassy celebration of Fosse’s work. Behind-the-scenes, the savvy observer will note Fosse’s choreography for *Mexican Breakfast*, originally created for *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1969 and featuring his wife Gwen Verdon fronting a trio of dancers, was the template for Beyonce’s wildly popular *Single Ladies* video.

Also on the program: the world premiere of *Near Light* by Artistic Director **Melissa Thodos**, the Chicago premiere of *Memoirs* by first-time TDC guest choreographer **Garfield Lemonius**, reprises of **Sybil Shearer’s *Salute to Old Friends*** and **Brian Enos’s *Lullaby***, and the official debuts into TDC’s repertoire of **John Cartwright’s *Flawed*** and **Tenley Dorrill’s *Night Windows***, both created by these TDC ensemble dancers via the company’s *New Dances 2014* series.

Thodos Dance’s *Chicago Inspired* concerts are Saturday, February 21 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Boulevard in Skokie. Tickets are \$28–\$50. For tickets and information, call **(847) 673-6300** or visit northshorecenter.org.

Chicago Inspired will also be presented Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harris Theatre for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Chicago. Tickets are \$15–\$65; 40% off for students and seniors. Purchase tickets at the Harris by calling **(312) 334-7777** or visiting harristheaterchicago.org.

Immediately following the Harris concert, Thodos Dance is hosting its *Chicago Inspired* post show VIP gala. At 9:30 p.m., guests will be spirited to the Harris back stage to enjoy signature cocktails in the Green Room. Then guests will ride a *Chicago Inspired* decorated elevator with Thodos dancers up to the glass enclosed stage of the Pritzker Pavilion. With night views of Millennium Park and the Art Institute as a backdrop, Thodos’ supporters will enjoy an open bar, hors d’oeuvres, dancing, and fruit, dessert and coffee stations. Tickets are \$275 or \$500 and include pre-show cocktails and VIP seating. Purchase tickets at thodosdancechicago.org or call **(312) 266-6255**.



Thodos Dance Chicago’s *Fosse Trilogy*, set on the company by Ann Reinking. Click [here](#) to download hi-and lo-res images.

THODOS CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF DANCE CREATION WITH *NEW DANCES* SERIES, JULY 18 & 19 AT THE ATHENAEUM

Thodos Dance Chicago's *New Dances* is one of the city's earliest, most respected in-house choreography series, and is unique and immensely admired in the national dance circuit.

2015 marks the 15th consecutive year Thodos Dance Chicago will offer its dancers the unique opportunity to grow as choreographers, directors and producers via *New Dances*. Be part of an amazing evening of new dance discovery when TDC's ensemble members are given complete freedom to create and present their own new works. Performances are Saturday, July 18 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, July 19 at 5 p.m. at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, Chicago. Tickets are \$35; \$28 for students and seniors; \$20 industry (dancers and teachers); \$10 for children 12 and under and for groups of 10 or more. Tickets will on sale in February at athenaeum.org or by calling (773) 935-6875.



TDC ensemble members Diana Winfree's *Faultless* (2014), Brandon Harneck's *CO-* (2014), and Jessica Miller Tomlinson's *Entwined Winds* (2013) were all created via Thodos Dance Chicago's *New Dances* series. Thodos annually invites a guest choreographer to set a new work on the company at *New Dances* as well, results including Ahmad Simmons' *Panem nostrum quoditianum* (2013) and Brian Enos' *Lullaby* (2012). Photos by Cheryl Mann. Click [here](#) to download hi-res.

THODOS CONTINUES TO GROW YOUTH DANCE CLASS OFFERINGS, EDUCATION OUTREACH IN 2014-15

Thodos Dance Chicago continues to grow its Youth Dance curriculum for children ages 3 to 18 at the company's professional rehearsal home, the Drucker Center Menomonee Club for Boys and Girls, 1535 N. Dayton St. in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. Youth classes are unique in that all instructors are TDC company members who oversee a dance curriculum rich in diversity. For the more serious dancer, the Thodos Dance Chicago Youth Ensemble is a next-level, audition-based opportunity for children grades 5 through 12 to perform in a pre-professional dance company. Auditions for Youth Ensemble will be held January 5, 2015. Call the TDC office at (312) 266.6255 or visit thodosdancechicago.org for Youth Dance class and audition information.

With its roots as a teaching company, Thodos Dance also has an array of education outreach programs offering in-school performances, assembly programs, residencies and master classes. Popular programs include TDC's *Imagine Dance Assembly Performance* for grades K-8, a dance assembly that educates students about the concepts and tools employed in creating dance; the *Connections Assembly*, drawing from the company's acclaimed mainstage work *A Light in the Dark: The Story of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan* to raise awareness of those living with disabilities; and, Thodos' *Dance Smash Educational Performance* for junior and high schools.

Thodos Dance Chicago also offers pre-professional and professional dancers an ongoing series of master classes, company classes, winter and summer weekend intensives and winter and summer one-day intensives. Visit thodosdancechicago.org for more information.



1) Thodos Dance Chicago is growing its Youth Dance curriculum at the Drucker Center Menomonee Club for Boys and Girls, 1535 N. Dayton St. in Chicago. 2) Thodos Dance Youth Ensemble Co-Director **Jessica Miller Tomlinson** (seated) works with the Youth Ensemble 3) TDC's **Kyle Hadenfeldt** teaches the company's Youth Dance Hip Hop class. Click [here](#) for hi res.

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ABOUT THODOS DANCE CHICAGO

In 1992, **Melissa Thodos**, a young Evanston-born, Chicago-based dancer and choreographer, was frustrated with the lack of opportunities for local dancers to work in what in her mind was the obvious environment for any well-rounded dance professional: A place to perform. A place to create. And a place to educate. Fast-forward 23 years, and Thodos is the only female choreographer and director to have helmed her own mid-sized, contemporary dance company in Chicago for more than two decades with this unique mission.

Today, **Thodos Dance Chicago** (TDC) is an ensemble of twelve versatile dance artists with a captivating style that uses a variety of dance forms. The company's unique mission of inspiring expression through dance education, dance creation and dance performance has established TDC as an innovative presence in American contemporary dance.

Thodos Dance Chicago features the American voice in contemporary dance and has created two critically acclaimed story ballets. In addition to performing works by **Melissa Thodos** and resident artists, TDC performs a diverse array of works created by other reputable choreographers: **Bob Fosse, Ann Reinking, Lar Lubovitch, Shapiro & Smith, Jon Lehrer, Michael Anderson, Zachary Whittenburg, Lucas Crandall, Brian Enos, Amy Ernst, Ron De Jesús, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, Ahmad Simmons** and **KT Nelson**.

Thodos Dance Chicago ensemble members, who each teach, choreograph and perform for the company, include veterans **John Cartwright, Tenley Dorrill, Kyle Hadenfeldt, Brandon Harneck, Alissa Tollefson, Jessica Miller Tomlinson, Diana Winfree** and **Laura Zimmerer**. New ensemble members this season are **Abby Ellison, Taylor Mitchell, Brennan Renteria** and **Briana Robinson**.

Thodos Dance Chicago continues to expand its artistic and institutional boundaries under the guidance of Founder and Artistic Director **Melissa Thodos**, Executive Director **Gail Ford**, Booking Director **Rick Johnston**, Rehearsal Director and Ballet Mistress **Laura Gates**, Resident Lighting Designer **Nathan Tomlinson**, Marketing and Operations Manager **Annie Zahour**, Education and Outreach Associate **Kate Weatherly**, Board President **Elaine Rosenfeld Margulis**, a dedicated board of directors and the support of thousands of contemporary dance enthusiasts both in Chicago and nationwide.

The company is supported by the **Illinois Arts Council**—a state agency, **Target, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the MacArthur Fund for Arts & Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Arts Work Fund, The Morrison-Shearer Foundation, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Service Club of Chicago** and many individual and corporate sponsors.

For more information, visit thodosdancechicago.org.

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