

Featuring Three World Premiere Works

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AUDITORIUM THEATRE

CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE® EST. 1889

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CHICAGO'S OWN TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY RETURNS TO THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE WITH THREE WORLD PREMIERES AND CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED CLASSICS

World Premieres of Michelle Dorrance and Melinda Sullivan's *American Traffic*, Co-Commissioned by the Auditorium Theatre; Mark Howard and Chelsea Hoy's *Home*; and Colin Dunne's *Listen*

Chicago Premiere of Seán Curran's *Goddess*

[Trinity Irish Dance Company at the Auditorium Theatre on February 29, 2020 \(2PM and 7:30PM\)](#)



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CHICAGO, IL) – Chicago's own **Trinity Irish Dance Company** (TIDC) returns to the **Auditorium Theatre's** landmark stage on Saturday, February 29, 2020, following its lauded 2019 performance at the theatre. The company gives the world premiere to three works: *American Traffic*, a piece co-commissioned by the Auditorium and choreographed by tap dancer and MacArthur "Genius

Grant” recipient **Michelle Dorrance** and tap dancer and choreographer **Melinda Sullivan**; *Home*, choreographed by TIDC Founding Artistic Director **Mark Howard** and Associate Artistic Director **Chelsea Hoy**; and *Listen* by **Colin Dunne**, an internationally-acclaimed dancer known for both Irish step and contemporary movement.

“We are excited to have Trinity Irish Dance Company back at the Auditorium during our 130th anniversary season, and we look forward to presenting them at our National Historic Landmark through 2022,” says **Rich Regan**, Auditorium Theatre CEO. “We are honored to provide commissioning support for innovative works such as *American Traffic*, and can’t wait to see the new pieces TIDC brings to our stage in the new year.”

Home is the second piece co-choreographed by Howard and Hoy, following the success of 2019’s *An Sorcas (The Circus)*, which also premiered at the Auditorium. Their new work is inspired by the ways “home” can be found in unexpected places, bringing musicians and dancers together on stage to engage in a percussive tour-de-force conversation where each dancer brings something to the table. Howard, who was a regular guest on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, has accumulated a multitude of national and international television and film credits. His critically-acclaimed work has been performed on prestigious stages, from New York’s Joyce Theater to Tokyo’s Orchard Hall. Celebrating his 40th year as a choreographer, Howard’s pioneering vision to push the boundaries of Irish dance while maintaining a strong reverence for tradition is attracting renowned guest collaborators like Dorrance and Dunne.

American Traffic, co-commissioned by the Auditorium Theatre, is a hybrid of Irish step and American tap that celebrates the nuanced differences between the two forms, creating a new percussive language. Dorrance, who has choreographed for companies including Auditorium Theatre Visiting Resident American Ballet Theatre and Martha Graham Dance Company, is considered the “most prominent and ubiquitous tap dancer today” (The New York Times) and has appeared on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Sullivan is an accomplished performer and choreographer who has appeared on *So You Think You Can Dance?* and assisted as a choreographer for *The Late Late Show with James Corden* and more.

“Trinity Irish Dance Company is the cutting edge of Irish dance. They achieve a powerful combination of cultural depth, innovation, and artistry with exceptional technical range,” says Dorrance.

Listen, from British-born, Ireland-based Dunne, is a deconstruction of Irish dance that pays homage to the form’s deep traditions. Dunne is a leading figure in the Irish step-dancing genre, widely known for his long-running performances as co-star in *Riverdance* from 1995 to 1998 (including appearances at the Auditorium Theatre). *Listen* is Dunne’s first-ever work choreographed for an ensemble repertory company like TIDC.

In addition to the three world premieres, TIDC gives the Chicago premiere to *Goddess* by longtime TIDC collaborator **Seán Curran**, founder and artistic director of the Seán Curran Company, former lead dancer of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, and chair of New York University’s Department of Dance. *Goddess* is a hypnotic blend of Irish and Indian movement. TIDC worked with **Hema Rajagopalan**, artistic director of **Chicago’s Natya Dance Theatre**, to refine the traditional Indian movements in the piece.

The program also features Howard’s classic pieces *Soles*, a tribal and timeless rhythmic study; *Push*, an explosion of hard-driving percussive power that exemplifies the company’s consistent message of female empowerment; and *Johnny*, one of Howard’s signature works that altered the landscape of Irish dance. A special appearance by Grammy-nominated fiddle player **Liz Carroll** and original music from Irish-born, New York-based singer/songwriter **Brendan O’Shea** round out the program.

***American Traffic* is co-commissioned by the Auditorium Theatre with sponsorship support from Pamela Crutchfield.**

About Trinity Irish Dance Company

Trinity Irish Dance Company is the high watermark of the art form; a uniquely Irish-American dance legacy that is rooted in tradition, yet forward-looking and ever-evolving. The result is a fresh, engaging, and integrity-filled vision that goes beyond the source without losing touch with

its essence. Founded in 1990 by Founding Artistic Director Mark Howard, TIDC is the birthplace of progressive Irish dance, an innovative movement genre which opened new avenues of artistic freedom that led directly to commercial productions such as Riverdance. TIDC has significantly changed the direction and scope of Irish dance, re-introducing the art form as the phenomenon it is today. With a unique blend of uncompromising power and grace, Trinity Irish Dance Company sends a consistent message of female empowerment with a repertory that has elevated the art form for nearly three decades. For more information, visit TrinityIrishDanceCompany.com.

Performance Information

[Trinity Irish Dance Company](#)

Saturday, February 29 | 2PM

Saturday, February 29 | 7:30PM

Individual tickets start at \$35 and are available online [here](#), by phone at 312.341.2300, or in person at the [Auditorium Theatre Box Office](#) (50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive). Tickets are available now as part of the Auditorium Theatre's two-show "[Made in Chicago](#)" [Dance Series](#), which offers a 15% discount and also includes [Giordano Dance Chicago](#). Discounts for [groups](#) of 10 or more people are available now. Box Service tickets, which include an open bar and snacks one hour before the show and during intermission, are available for \$80 (adults) and \$64 (young people under the age of 18) using the code BOXSEAT.

The Auditorium Theatre also offers \$15 [student rush tickets](#) to full-time college students and \$5 tickets to young people ages 13-19 with Urban Gateways' [Teen Arts Pass](#) program. The Auditorium Theatre's [ADMIT ONE](#) program offers complimentary tickets to Chicago-area community groups.



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Press photos and video are available [here](#).

Upcoming Events at the Auditorium Theatre

December 19-December 29: [The Joffrey Ballet – The Nutcracker](#)

January 18+19: [*Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah*](#)

January 26: [*National Geographic Live – On the Trail of Big Cats*](#)

February 12-23: [*The Joffrey Ballet – The Times Are Racing*](#)

February 29: [Trinity Irish Dance Company](#)

March 4-8: [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

March 9: [Yundi Li • SONATA](#)

March 10: [*National Geographic Live – Adventures Among Orangutans*](#)

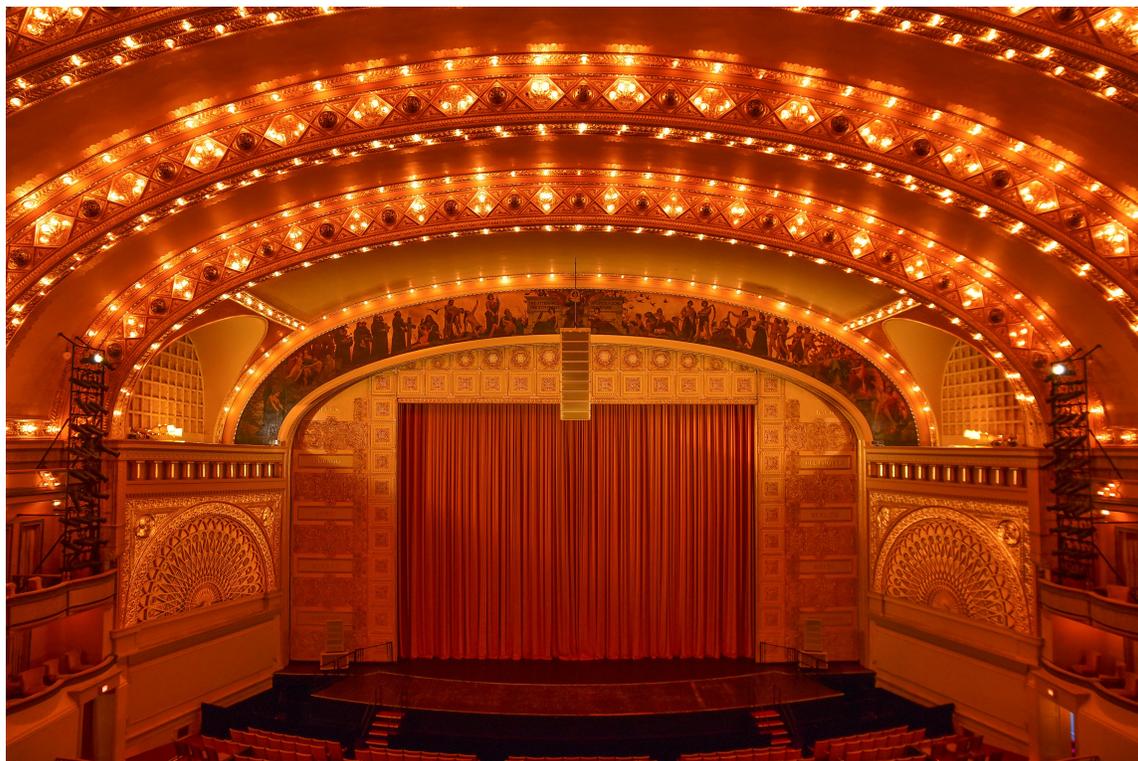
March 14: [Shin Lim](#)

March 19-22: [American Ballet Theatre](#)

About the Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E Ida B Wells Dr at Roosevelt University in Chicago, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community, and educational programming to all of Chicago and beyond as **The Theatre for the People**. The organization also is committed to the continued restoration and preservation of the **National Historic Landmark**.

The Auditorium Theatre 2019-20 Season is made possible in part with support from the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**, the **Illinois Arts Council**, and the **Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel**. **Chicago Magazine** is the official magazine sponsor. For more information about programming, volunteer, and donor opportunities or theatre tours, please call 312.341.2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click [here](#).



Trinity Irish Dance Company, photos by Lois Greenfield. | Auditorium Theatre, photo by Arturo Gonzalez.