

AUDITORIUM THEATRE

CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE[®] EST. 1889

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The Auditorium Theatre Presents

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO
WITH SIZZLING SUMMER PERFORMANCE
SHOWCASING 21st CENTURY WORKS,
ONE NIGHT ONLY, SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

Tickets starting at \$38 are now on sale!

May 5, 2022 (CHICAGO, IL) The **Auditorium Theatre** (50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive) completes its popular *Made in Chicago* 2021-22 Dance Series with the return of **Giordano Dance Chicago** (GDC) performing its annual summer engagement for one night only, Saturday, June 11, at 7:30pm. Audiences can expect a sizzling mixed repertory program of six works showcasing the company's continual expansion of the boundaries of jazz and contemporary dance. All works debuted in the 21st century; among highlights are certain to be Ray Mercer's *Shirt Off My Back*, which originally premiered at the Auditorium Theatre in 2015, and Christopher Huggins' *Pyrokinesis*, marking the last performance of this audience favorite before going into the vault; plus, Auditorium Theatregoers will be among the first to see Autumn Eckman's *Retroverse*, which debuted in April!

"The Auditorium Theatre is always proud to welcome back one of Chicago's longest running dance companies to its 'summer home,'" said Auditorium Theatre CEO **Rich Regan**. "We expect the joint to be jumping in June with this lively program."

"This engagement marks the final performance of our 59th Season, just moments from the start of our momentous 60th Season, beginning July 1. It will be a year of celebration concluding back at the Auditorium on June 10, 2023 – almost a year to the day, full circle!" added **Nan Giordano**, GDC Artistic Director.

The high energy program features a 'must see' mix of solos, duets and full company works spanning the latest GDC repertoire:

- **EXit4** (2013) Choreography: Ronen Koresh
Assistant to the Choreographer: Joe Cotler/Music: DJ Nadar, Greg Smith, Jonathan Lee Bowels, Le Trio Joubran/Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer/Costume Design: Branimira Ivanova

EXit4, choreographed by world renowned, Israeli-born choreographer, Ronen Koresh, is an impassioned journey of collective experiences coupled with an internal power that stretches the boundaries of emotional endurance for the dancers and perhaps the audience itself.

- **All For You** (2020) Choreography: Adam Houston
Music: Ólafur Arnalds/Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass/Costume Design: Nina G.

All For You, a pas de deux choreographed by GDC Company Dancer Adam Houston, takes a glimpse into the lives of a couple navigating the terrain of their relationship.

- **Take A Gambol** (2018) Choreography: Joshua Blake Carter
Music: Yazz Ahmed, Maynard Ferguson, Perry Como, Mose Allison, Quincy Jones/Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass/Costume Design: Joshua Blake Carter

Originally choreographed for an ensemble of eight men, *Take A Gambol* was reworked for the entire company in 2021 to celebrate Giordano Dance Chicago's return to the stage after nearly two years away. Created by Joshua Blake Carter, GDC Operations Manager and Director of Giordano II, and dedicated to the legacy of Giordano Dance Chicago, the classic form of American jazz dance, and the forward momentum of the people who embody the essence of those things.

- **Shirt Off My Back** (2015) Choreography: Ray Mercer
Music: Max Richter, Ólafur Arnalds, Bongie Duma/Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer/Costume Design: Branimira Ivanova

First debuted at the Auditorium Theatre in 2015, *Shirt Off My Back* begins with indistinct whispers, fluid lines, and undulating torsos. Ray Mercer manages to modulate the go-for-broke energy of this group with interludes of liquid partnering and solos. A brief men's section underscores the strength of the company's male dancers in precision unison moves. Dancers make swift exchanges across space volleying shirts on and off from performer to performer. A rousing wind-up culminates in an ecstatic group finale.

- **Retroverse** (2022) Choreography: Autumn Eckman
Music Composition: Dan Myers (commissioned score)/Mixing and Editing: Scott Steiner/
Music Performance: Dan Myers (instruments and vocals); Kaia String Quartet (Victoria Moreira, Naomi Culp, Amanda Grimm, and Hope DeCelle); Joseph Ayoub (Bass)/Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass/Costume Design: Nathan Rohrer

The work asks: What if we could pause time to reexamine our past and remind ourselves of the essential power of human-to-human interaction?

- **Pyrokinesis** (2007) Choreographer: Christopher Huggins
Music: George Winston, United Future Organization/Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer/Costume Design: Branimira Ivanova

One of the most popular and highly acclaimed pieces in the Giordano repertoire, *Pyrokinesis* is a crowd pleasing high-impact performance of the entire company showcasing their unique talents and individual strengths. Meaning "fire-motion," *Pyro* lights up the audience every time it is performed.

Please note program subject to change.

Performance schedule and tickets

Giordano Dance Chicago performs at the Auditorium Theatre for one night only, Saturday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$38 (inclusive of all fees) and are now available at [AuditoriumTheatre.org](https://auditoriumtheatre.org), by calling 312.341.2300, or at the Box Office at 50 E Ida B Wells Drive in Chicago, IL. [Click here for phone and in-person hours](#).

Discounted tickets for [groups](#) of 10 or more people are available. The Auditorium Theatre 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 also offers a [Student Savings Club](#) for both college and high school students. The Auditorium Theatre's [ADMIT ONE](#) program offers complimentary tickets to Chicago-area community groups.

Special thanks

The Auditorium Theatre is grateful for the support of 2021-22 Season Dance Sponsor, **The Florian Fund**. The Auditorium Theatre 2021-22 Season is also made possible in part with support from **the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** and the **Illinois Arts Council Agency**. The Auditorium's official hotel partner is the **Palmer House Hilton** and their official magazine is **Chicago** magazine.

About Giordano Dance Chicago

Giordano Dance Chicago, America's original jazz dance company, is one of the longest running professional dance companies in Chicago and one of few dance companies in the U.S. to have achieved a milestone 60th anniversary. Currently under the leadership of Artistic Director Nan Giordano and Executive Director Michael McStraw, GDC is a world-class dance company and a driving force in Chicago's thriving performing arts community. The company's new works continually expand the boundaries of jazz and contemporary dance. Each year, the company's innovative outreach program, "Jazz Dance/Science & Health," has typically reached more than 450 CPS students in four underserved CPS schools. The Nan Giordano Certification Program ® offers certification world-wide to professional dance educators in the proprietary and foundational Giordano Technique, created by Gus Giordano. For more information about GDC and its programs, call 312.922.1332 or visit giordanodance.org.

About The Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive 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 this National Historic Landmark that originally opened in 1889. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](https://auditoriumtheatre.org).

The Auditorium Theatre is fully committed to the health and safety of our patrons and our staff. For this event, patrons 5 and over are REQUIRED to show proof of vaccination at the door or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of entry. All guests must wear a mask when not eating or drinking. [Click here for the most current safety protocols](#).

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Photos:

From left: Ashley Downs in *Pyrokinesis*, credit: Christopher Creese, and Company in *Retroverse*, credit: Gorman Cook

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