

Founded in 1974, the mission of the Joel Hall Dancers & Center (JHDC) is to use the arts to enrich the lives of its community through dance performance & education. A welcoming community-based organization that remains historically committed to diversity & inclusion — JHDC makes dance accessible to all people, in order to awaken the dancer in everyone's soul.

JHDC proactively reaches out to the community — seeking to serve those who may not otherwise be exposed to the arts — by providing dance classes along with local, national, & international showcase performances to enhance the lives of all participants.

Both JHDC and its audience exhibit a rare diversified spectrum of cultural, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds.

The Joel Hall Dancers & Center is noted for its joyous blend of jazz, ballet, modern and "street" dance techniques.

Dance Instruction: Open 7 days a week, JHDC offers one of the most extensive dance & movement curriculums in the Midwest, through its anchor facility in Edgewater and multiple satellite locations at community service centers and schools throughout the City of Chicago.

- JHDC serves students of all ages, interests and experience levels — providing toddlers through senior citizens with dance instruction in a wide variety of disciplines such as ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and hip-hop.
- JHDC's dance faculty includes over 20 of Chicago's finest and most accomplished artisans that endow their classes with energy, discipline, fun, and a breadth of knowledge that has made them some of the most renowned and sought after instructors in Chicago.

Community Partnerships: JHDC has developed many programs to bring dance to corners of Chicago where individuals have few opportunities to experience and engage with dance performance and education. JHDC currently operates dance programs at Washington Park, Douglas Park, Agassiz School, Logan Center for the Performing Arts, and Walter Payton College Preparatory School.

- In the past, JHDC has hosted programs at locations such as the South Shore Cultural Center and A.N. Pritzker School.
- JHDC's companies also provided performances across Chicago at venues including Victory Gardens, Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Chicago State University, Logan Center for the Performing Arts, Raven Theatre, and Lincoln Hall.
- In the spring of 2015, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will partner with JHDC and 4 renowned local musicians for a show at the renowned Pritzker Pavilion.
- JHD has revived its holiday classic Nuts & Bolts in excerpted form as of December of 2013 with plans to revive the full production by 2016, making it an annual tradition once again in Chicago.

Dance Initiative: The JHDC Dance Initiative offers affordable opportunities to dance for those who might otherwise have to give up their involvement with dance because of unemployment. The JHDC Dance Stimulus Program has two factions:

1. Unemployed Workers In Transition ("UWIT"), which affords adult participants with proof of unemployment a single class rate of \$8.00, and;
2. Unemployed Families In Transition ("UFIT"), which affords children with unemployed parents a discount of 25% off the regular class term.

Joel Hall Dancers: The Joel Hall Dancers are JHDC's primary performance dance troupe and expresses contemporary urban life through dance while educating, entertaining, and inspiring their audience.

- The signature dance style of JHD incorporates ballet, jazz, modern, funk, and “street dance” using contemporary jazz and house music to create an innovative and continuously evolving dance style that is appealing, relevant, and approachable for those frequently underserved by the arts.
- The Joel Hall Dancers maintain a citywide, national, and international reputation, not only for their diversity and innovation, but also for their substantive sociological content and engaging aesthetic style.
- Under the leadership of Artistic Director Joel Hall, the Joel Hall Dancers have carried their unique yet universally accessible voice to venues that span the world.

JHD-YC & JHD II: The extraordinary group of talented individuals that comprise JHD II — the pre-professional training company for the Joel Hall Dancers — cover a wide spectrum of age, race, gender and background. Aside from their substantial performance duties, the JHDC companies have participated in community fundraising activities such as Chicago Winter Delights, Symphony Center Arts Day, Lakeview East Arts Festival, Jones College Prep, Wrightwood Neighbors Association Annual Holiday Party, and the Northstar Medical Center.

The younger of the two companies, JHD-YC is comprised of talented youth from nearly a dozen different high schools across the Chicago area. Through training and performance, JHDC provides company members with an experience they would not otherwise be offered during their scholastic years.

History: The Joel Hall Dancers (JHD) has a rich, 40-year history, beginning with the company's inception in 1974.

- In September 1974 Chicago City Theatre Company — which includes the Joel Hall Dancers — was formally co-founded by Joel Hall. March 1975 brought the company's first concert series at the Francis Parker Auditorium in Chicago. The company returned to Parker performing *Chain of Fools*, a ballet choreographed by Ruth Page, in 1980.
- Throughout the 1980s, the company continued to develop their Chicago identity while establishing a national and international presence. The company performed at the Joyce Theatre in New York (1983, 1984), in Scotland at Glasgow's MayFest (1985, 1988), at the Bloomsbury Theatre in London (1985), at Stranmills Theatre in Belfast and in the Netherlands (1986), in Glasgow and Liverpool (1988) — and throughout the United Kingdom, and the now former Soviet Union (1989).
- In the 1990s, JHD focused on Chicago through performances across the city. A tragic fire at the Joel Hall Dancers & Center studio in 1993 destroyed much of the company's resources and forced relocation and a lengthy rebuild. Despite the challenges, Mr. Hall debuted *Nuts & Bolts* (1994) — which quickly became a holiday staple in Chicago.
- *Etude en Jazz #4* (2002) and *Etude en Maison #418* (2005) explore what dance looks like alongside jazz and house music respectively. *For Marvin* (2004) brings the music of Marvin Gaye to life as *An Evening with Nina Simone* (2006) does with the music of the legendary songstress. Working with Ray Silkman to create *Silkman Suites* (2005), *The March Civil Rights Opera on The March* (2012), and *Charles Heath on Conversations with Charles Heath* (2013) prove that collaborations with composers and live music are key to this evolution.
- 2014 marks the beginning of the Joel Hall Dancers & Center's 40th Anniversary.