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**“Many Rivers to Cross” — Black History Month Dance Experience
Debuts in February at Joel Hall Dancers & Center in Edgewater**

For Immediate Release

(Chicago, IL) On the weekend of February 20, 21 and 22, in celebration of Black History Month, Joel Hall Dancers & Center will debut a brand new dance experience — “Many Rivers to Cross” — at their studio location in Edgewater at 5965 North Clark Street. Shows begin at 7 pm each night, and a donation of \$15 to benefit the Chicago-based non-profit, is requested at the door.

“Many Rivers to Cross” is a multi-dimensional artistic and educational journey through Black History from the 1700’s to 2014 — and will be explored through song, dance, drama, spoken word, and various other visual artistic expressions. Audience members will travel throughout the studio space on “the Underground Railroad” and experience the many trials and tribulations of our African American ancestors, through authentic slave narratives and first-hand accounts and recollections.

Joel Hall Dancers & Center have invited some of the area’s most talented friends in the theater community to help bring this journey to life, including Miss Alexis Rogers, Lyrical Paradigm, Durel Sankofa, Deeply Rooted’s Mature Hot Women and Pre-Professionals, Studio One, Terry Francoise, Jessie Dean Stanford, Daniel Phillips, April Ship, Breon Arzell, SketchNTyme, Christopher Manning and many more.

“We look forward to welcoming the public for what will hope will be an exciting and provocative adventure,” said Dereque Whiturs, who has conceived of, and is choreographing, this unique experience. “We will also invite the audience to stay after the performances and actively engage as interactive participants in a dialogue about the circumstances of where we are as a country then and now ... exploring what’s changed and what’s remains the same.”

About Joel Hall Dancers & Center:

A Chicago-based non-profit — 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. JHDC reaches out to our community — targeting those who may not otherwise be exposed to the arts — by providing dance classes along with local, national, & international showcase performances.

The Joel Hall Dancers express 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.

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

Additional information about Joel Hall Dancers & Center may be found at <http://joelhall.org>

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