

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AUDITORIUM THEATRE WELCOMES GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO  
IN COMPANY'S FIRST FULL-LENGTH PROGRAM ON VENUE'S LANDMARK STAGE,  
FEATURING WORLD PREMIERE BY BROADWAY STAR RAY MERCER**

Program also includes remounting of Autumn Eckman's Chicago-inspired  
"Moving Sidewalks," as well as "EXit4," "Feelin' Good Sweet," and "Alloy"

Presented as part of the Auditorium Theatre's "Made in Chicago" Dance Series

CHICAGO — [The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University](#) presents the renowned [Giordano Dance Chicago](#) (GDC) in the company's first full-length performance at the venue as part of the "Made in Chicago" Dance Series, Saturday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m. The evening is highlighted by the world premiere of "**Shirt Off My Back**," a full-company work choreographed by award-winning choreographer **Ray Mercer** of Disney's hit Broadway musical "**The Lion King**," and an all-new version of **Autumn Eckman's** Pilsen-themed "**Moving Sidewalks**." Tickets are \$27– \$67, available online at [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org), by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or in-person at the Auditorium's Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy).

"Giordano Dance Chicago is one of the leading dance companies performing in the United States," said **Executive Director Brett Batterson**. "For more than half a century, this terrific ensemble has dazzled audiences with incomparable energy, creativity and style. We're privileged to host this group and to bring an exclusive world premiere to the Auditorium stage as part of our 'Made in Chicago' series."

Featuring all ten members of GDC's main company, "**Shirt Off My Back**" explores the inherent sacrifices people make as they enter into a relationship. Mercer—winner of The Joffrey Ballet's prestigious Choreographers of Color Award in 2012 and a former company member with Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theater—returns to Chicago to stage his first work for Giordano Dance Chicago.

Along with Mercer's world premiere, the company presents an updated, never-before-seen version of former GDC Assistant Artistic Director **Autumn Eckman's** "**Moving Sidewalks**," based on the changing landscape of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Eckman's re-worked version features new costumes and now includes the members of Giordano Dance Chicago's main company plus the members of Giordano II, a total of 16 dancers.

January's performance marks the first dedicated program of works by Giordano Dance Chicago on the Auditorium's landmark stage; the company has previously performed works at the Auditorium as the headlining ensemble of the "MOVEMENT + MUSIC Festival" in 2013, and regularly at the annual "Dance for Life" fundraiser, supporting HIV/AIDS research and The Dancer's Fund.

In addition to “Shirt Off My Back” and “Moving Sidewalks” the program will include:



#### **“EXIT4”**

Israeli-born choreographer **Roni Koresh**'s **“EXit4”** 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. This seminal work for GDC's main company features a vibrant music compilation of traditional and modern Middle Eastern scores.



#### **“FEELIN' GOOD SWEET”**

The sultry, Broadway-inspired **“Feelin' Good Sweet”** from **Ray Leeper** (“So You Think You Can Dance,” “America's Got Talent”), returns to the stage following its world premiere in the fall of 2014. Leeper's magnetic, visceral movement showcases the tremendous dance versatility of GDC's main company, pushing the limits of traditional jazz technique with the musicality and pizzazz of a Broadway musical.



#### **“ALLOY”**

This sensual male-female duet from **Autumn Eckman** features a score of classical piano works by **Mendelssohn** and **Beethoven**. Engaging from beginning to end, **“Alloy,”** which debuted in 2011, has become a favorite of the GDC repertoire.

*The “Made in Chicago” Dance Series is sponsored by **The Boeing Company**.*

### **About Giordano Dance Chicago**

GDC, now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year, is one of the longest running professional dance companies in Chicago and one of very few dance companies in the U.S. to have achieved this milestone.

GDC, currently under the leadership of Artistic Director Nan Giordano and Executive Director Michael McStraw, 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. The company also has an active outreach and education program in three Chicago Public Schools.

GDC's administrative office is located at 1509 S. Michigan Ave in Chicago's South Loop. For more information about GDC and their programs, call 312.922.1332 or visit [giordanodance.org](http://giordanodance.org).

## **Performance Schedule and Ticket Information**

Saturday, January 31, 2015 | 7:30 p.m.

Tickets (\$27 – \$67) are available online at [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org), by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or in-person at Auditorium Theatre's Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy). Discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are available at (312) 341-2357 or [sales@auditoriumtheatre.org](mailto:sales@auditoriumtheatre.org).

Giordano Dance Chicago is part of the Auditorium's "Made in Chicago" Dance Series, which also includes [River North Dance Chicago](#) and "[Chicago Rhythm Fest](#)." Subscriptions are available at a 30% discount at (312) 341-2357 or [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org).

### **Auditorium Theatre's 2014 – 15 Season:**

The Auditorium Theatre 2014 – 15 Season also includes "[Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah](#)" (January 17 – 18); [Tango Buenos Aires](#) (January 25); [Grupo Corpo](#) (February 28 – March 1); [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) (March 6 – 15); [River North Dance Chicago](#) (March 28); [Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg](#) (May 8 – 10); "[Chicago Rhythm Fest](#)" (May 13); "[His Way - A Sinatra Centennial Celebration](#)" (May 30); and [The Royal Ballet's](#) "Don Quixote" (June 18 – 21). For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click [here](#).

### **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Sponsors**

The Auditorium Theatre would like to thank their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Sponsors: Lead Corporate Sponsor **Nicor Gas**, Lead Foundation Sponsor **Robert R. McCormick Foundation** and **David D. Hiller**, International Dance Series Sponsor **NIB Foundation**, and "Made in Chicago" Dance Series sponsor **The Boeing Company**. Media sponsors include **Chicago Magazine** and **WXRT**, and the **Pasquinelli Family Foundation** is the Gala Dinner Celebration Sponsor. Student Matinee Series Sponsors for the 2014-15 Season include **The Private Bank** and **The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation**.

### **About the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University**

**The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University**, located at 50 E. Congress Pkwy, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre.

In September of 2014, the Auditorium Theatre was awarded the inaugural Fifth Star Award by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. On December 9, 2014, the Auditorium Theatre celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a proclamation from the City of Chicago declaring it "Auditorium Theatre Day."

The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the **MacArthur Foundation**, the **Illinois Arts Council**, the **Sage Foundation**, and the **Palmer House Hilton**. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call (312) 341-2310 or visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org).