

RIVER NORTH
DANCE
CHICAGO



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"...this is one sleek, confident, athletic, daring, versatile company."
Chicago Sun-Times

VISION

River North Dance Chicago is dedicated to the creative advancement, presentation and preservation of jazz- based contemporary dance regionally, nationally and internationally.

MISSION

River North Dance Chicago produces, promotes and presents dance, makes vital connections between dancers and the audience, creates partnerships and collaborations, assists in the professional development of dancers and choreographers, participates in cultural programming and advocates for dance and dance education.

HISTORY

Founded in 1989 by four visionary dancers/choreographers, River North Dance Chicago has established itself as one of Chicago's leading dance companies, receiving critical acclaim on a national and international level. Frank Chaves joined the company in 1993 as Associate Director, became Co-Artistic Director with Sherry Zunker in 1994 and in May 2001, Chaves assumed sole artistic directorship. Since then, Chaves has created more than 20 works in River North's repertoire, and has led the company through years of tremendous growth, success and acclaim. In May 2009, Gail Kalver, revered arts leader and longtime Executive Director of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, was named the Executive Director of RNDC, after serving in an interim capacity the previous year. The company is currently celebrating its 21st anniversary with a three-year, one-million dollar fundraising campaign, raising support for three special initiatives: Creativity, Community and Capacity.

The 2010-2011 touring season is also marked by great growth. River North Dance Chicago is honored to have been awarded a prestigious New England Foundation for the Arts touring grant. The grant was awarded largely based on the company touring its critically acclaimed works by Robert Battle, who was recently named artistic director designate of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, succeeding Judith Jamison. These works include "Train," "Ella" and "Three." The company will return to Europe in 2011 for its second International tour.

The company has also been selected to participate in the Building a Network of New Dance Presenters grant program. The touring initiative is funded by the Doris Duke Foundation and is a collaboration of Dance Affiliates of Philadelphia, DANCECleveland and Dance St. Louis. In the company's selection, River North Dance Chicago was cited as "the ideal company to introduce dance to new audiences and to mentor new presenters."

Under the artistic direction of Frank Chaves, the jazz-based contemporary company embodies a true flavor of "Americana" in their dynamic repertoire. Elements of River North Dance Chicago include highly skilled and emotive dancers, stimulating music and bold, commanding choreography. The *Chicago Sun-Times* observed "When the music starts, the heart responds. That's the motto of River North Chicago Dance Company." The core works developed by Frank Chaves, along with an array of pieces by nationally and internationally renowned choreographers, construct the varied, eclectic and powerful repertoire that River North Chicago possesses. The repertoire consists of works from choreographers including Robert Battle, Lauri Stallings, Daniel Ezralow, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Ashley Roland, Randy Duncan, Julia Rhoads, Harrison McEldowney, Kevin Iega Jeff, former Co-Artistic Director Sherry Zunker, as well as Artistic Director Frank Chaves. The company has been the subject of three documentaries produced by HMS Media for WTTW Chicago, which have each won an Emmy and numerous Emmy nominations.





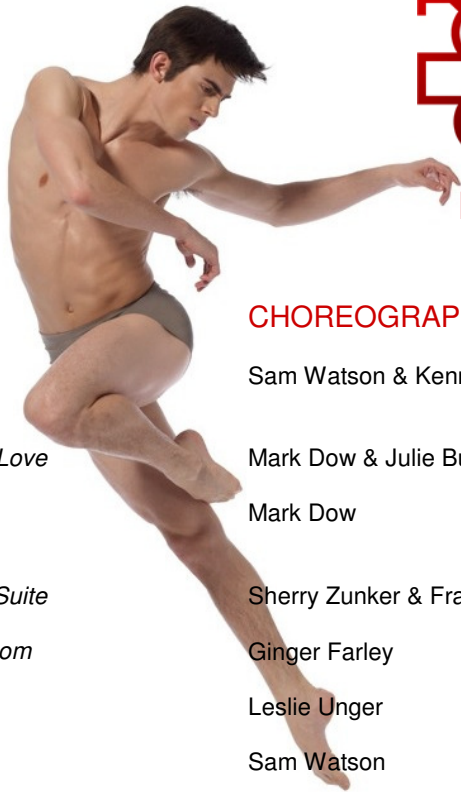
LEADERSHIP



Frank Chaves (Miami, FL), **Artistic Director**, joined River North Dance Chicago (RNDC) in 1993 as Associate Director, became Co-Artistic Director with Sherry Zunker in 1994, and in May 2001, Mr. Chaves assumed sole artistic directorship of RNDC. Since then, he has created over 20 works in the company's repertoire. An international choreographer and teacher, Mr. Chaves has also created numerous works for other companies including Spectrum Dance Theatre, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Point Park College for the Performing Arts, Barat Repertory Dance Company, Kaleidoscope Dancers, Pori Dance Company (Finland), and the National Choreographers Initiative (twice invited). Mr. Chaves' theatrical commissions include work for Steppenwolf Theatre and the Cleveland Playhouse. As a performer, Mr. Chaves has danced with Ballet Concerto of Miami, New York's Ballet Hispanico, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, and six years with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. In 2000, Mr. Chaves received a Ruth Page Dance Achievement Award for *Mission*, co-created with Sherry Zunker, Co-Artistic Director Emerita of River North Chicago, in honor of the Company's 10th anniversary. He has also been recognized with a 2008 Choo-San Goh Award for Choreography from the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation for Tuscan Rift. Mr. Chaves is an Adjunct Professor of Dance for Western Michigan University. He has been invited to create a full evening for Ballet Magdeburg in Magdeburg, Germany in 2012.



Gail Kalver (Chicago, IL), **Executive Director**, is an arts management consultant and project manager, whose client roster has included the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Concert Dance, Inc., Dance Affiliates of Philadelphia, Ensemble Español, The Grant Park Music Festival, and The 2007 Chicago Dancing Festival. Previously, she served as Executive Director of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago for 23 years; Associate Manager of the Ravinia Festival for 8 years; and, was an active free-lance clarinetist prior to her arts management work. Kalver serves on the boards of Audience Architects (home of SeeChicagoDance.com and TakeChicagoDance.com), Chicago Dancers United (Dance for Life), and Northshore Concert Band; and, on the Advisory Boards of Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Child's Play Touring Company, Ensemble Español and Project Bandaloop. Kalver is the recipient of the 1988 Ruth Page Award for Service to the Field, the Arts & Business Council of Chicago's 2003 ABBY Award for Arts Management Excellence and the 2007 Ruth Page Award for Lifetime Service. She was also recognized by Today's Chicago Woman as one of 100 women making a difference in Chicago. Kalver is thrilled to be reuniting with Frank Chaves after many fun-filled and exciting years together at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.



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FULL REPERTOIRE

PIECE	CHOREOGRAPHER	MUSIC
1988 <i>Wired</i>	Sam Watson & Kenny Comstock	Original Score by Sam Watson & Kenny Comstock
1989 <i>Moments in Love</i>	Mark Dow & Julie Burman	Art of Noise
<i>Tied Up</i>	Mark Dow	Yello
1991 <i>Cole Porter Suite</i>	Sherry Zunker & Frank Chaves	Cole Porter; Erasure; k.d. lang; The Neville Brothers
<i>Crowded Room</i>	Ginger Farley	The Gipsy Kings
<i>M.O.N.E.Y.</i>	Leslie Unger	Lyle Lovett
<i>Muzak</i>	Sam Watson	The Serendipity Singers; Lerner and Lowe; Stephen Sondheim; Herb Alpert
<i>Round</i>	Sherry Zunker	New Order
<i>The Man That Got Away</i>	Sherry Zunker	Harold Arlen, Ira Gershwin
1992 <i>A House is Not a Home</i>	Derrick Evans	Luther Vandross
<i>Reality of a Dreamer</i>	Sherry Zunker	Eurythmics; Douglas Johnson
<i>Space Witch</i>	Ginger Farley	Red Hot Chili Peppers
<i>Sweet Dreams – Roy Orbison Suite</i>	Ginger Farley	Roy Orbison
<i>Woman Trouble</i>	Harrison McEldowney	Irving Berlin
1993 <i>Passion</i>	Frank Chaves	Graeme Revell; Jeff Selbar; Warren Hill
<i>Perfidia</i>	Harrison McEldowney	Alberto Dominguez, performed by Linda Ronstadt
<i>Swing Partners</i>	Tony Savino	Benny Goodman; Colin James, Woody Herman
<i>Thief</i>	Frank Chaves	Lil' Louis & The World
1994 <i>Fixè</i>	Frank Chaves	Cirque de Soleil – <i>Nouvelle Experience</i>
<i>Glimpse</i>	Sherry Zunker	V. Tormis, performed by the Women's Choir of the Gori Music School; Enigma; Herman/Ingraham, performed by Longhouse
<i>Grandma's Hands (Company Premiere)</i>	Frank Chaves	Bill Withers, performed by Simply Red
<i>Schism</i>	Ginger Farley	Anonymous 4, Radiohead, Nirvana, Gyorgy Ligeti

1995 <i>Charanga</i> (Originally titled <i>Macarena</i>)	Frank Chaves	Yello
<i>Eye of a Needle, Head of a Pin</i>	Ginger Farley	Arranged by Scott Silberstein
<i>Lean On Me</i>	Randy Duncan	Bill Withers, performed by Michael Bolton
1996 <i>Change Partners</i>	Harrison McEldowney	Performed by Barbara Cook
<i>Grusin Suite</i> (Company Premiere)	Frank Chaves	<i>The Firm</i> Soundtrack, Dave Grusin
<i>ZIB WOHS</i>	Sherry Zunker	Allen/Bayer Sager, arranged by John Menella, performed by Louise Cloutier; Green/Brown/Homer, arranged by Esquirel; J. Cox, performed by Nina Simone; Rodgers and Hart, performed by Natalie Cole (Voices: Jim Corti and Louise Cloutier); John Menella/Sherry Zunker, performed by Susan Johnson
1997 <i>An Affair with Cole</i> (Cole Porter Suite, restaged)	Sherry Zunker, Harrison McEldowney, Jeffrey Hancock, Frank Chaves	k.d. lang; Gary Revel; Annie Lennox; The Neville Brothers
<i>Badum Boom</i> (Company Premiere)	Sam Watson	R. Campbell & H. Coon
<i>Turning Tides</i> (Company Premiere)	Randy Duncan	Sam Harris
1998 <i>Captain Tenacity</i> (Company Premiere)	Ashley Roland	Theater of the Blood, Richard Wagner
<i>Temporal Trance</i>	Frank Chaves	Peter Gabriel, Vangelis, Gabrielle Roth & the Mirrors
<i>Vent</i>	Sherry Zunker	Buddy Johnson, performed by Natalie Cole & Reba McEntire
1999 <i>Mission</i>	Frank Chaves & Sherry Zunker	Benoit Jutras, Sandberg & N. Hayes, Shane O'Madden, Harry Warren, Mack Gordon, Forbes – Lauderdale, Joe Galdo
2000 <i>The Two Sides of Tes – And Then Some</i>	Frank Chaves	Prince
<i>Pulse</i>	Daniel Ezralow	Original music by David Lang; electronic sounds produced by Michael Lowenstern
2001 <i>A Mi Manera</i>	Ginger Farley, Kevin Iega Jeff, & Sherry Zunker	Paul Anka and Frank Sinatra; performed by The Gipsy Kings
<i>Beat</i> (Company Premiere)	Ashley Roland	Composed by Evan Solot
<i>Love Will Follow</i>	Frank Chaves	Kenny Loggins
2002 <i>In the Oasis</i>	Julia Rhoads	Maurice Ravel; performed by Pink Martini
<i>Naeemah's Room</i>	Kevin Iega Jeff	Bjork; David Bowie; Phillip Glass; Ennio Morricone; Dionne Warwick
<i>The Box</i>	Harrison McEldowney	Jules Massenet; performed by Maxim Vengerov and Itamar Golan

2003		
<i>5 Easy Lessons</i>	Harrison McEldowney	D. Raye, G. DePaul; D. Miles, M. Discant; J. Stern, J. Flint; D. Miles, M. Discant; O. Peterson. Performed by Sarah Vaugan.
<i>Balada para un loco</i>	Paul Christiano	Astor Piazzola; performed by Dulce Pontes
<i>The Mourning</i>	Frank Chaves	David Visan and Julien Leca; performed by Bielka Nemirovski
<i>The Sweetest Sounds – A Tribute to Richard Rodgers</i>	Frank Chaves & Sherry Zunker	Richard Rodgers; lyrics by Lorenz Hart; performed by Sarah Vaughan, Big Muff, Tuck & Patti, Patti LaBelle & Frank Sinatra
2004		
<i>Unveiling the Curve</i>	Margo Sappington	John Hassel, Arvo Part
2005		
<i>Grace</i>	Sherry Zunker	Lisa Gerrard and Pieter Bourke; Alan Silvestri; John Newton – <i>Amazing Grace</i> performed by Ani DiFranco
<i>Habaneras, the Music of Cuba</i>	Frank Chaves	Ernesto Lecuona, Carlos Puebla, Silvio Rodriguez, L. Wolfe Gilbert, Marion Sunshine, Moises Simons; performed by Morton Gould and his Orchestra, Omara Portuondo, Percy Faith
<i>Red Light</i>	James Gregg	Gotan Project
<i>Take a Seat</i>	Frank Chaves	Rene Aubry; John Powell
2006		
<i>ahimsa</i>	Lauri Stallings	Steve Reich; Mark Isham; editing by John Menella/id Music
<i>BLOWN AWAY Images of the Dust Bowl</i>	Lynne Taylor-Corbett	Tin Hat Trio
<i>Sky</i>	Kevin Iega Jeff	Steve Reich; Sigur Ros
2007		
<i>Underground Movements</i>	Frank Chaves	Original score by Evan Solot; featuring vocals by Chicago Children's Choir
2008		
<i>Train</i>	Robert Battle	Les Tambours du Bronx
<i>Between Three</i>	Julia Rhoads	Alarm Will Sound; Amiina
2009		
<i>Tuscan Rift</i>	Frank Chaves	Rene Aubry; Andrew Bird
<i>Sentir em Nos (Even for Us)</i>	Frank Chaves	Andrea Bocelli & Dulce Pontes
<i>Uhuru</i>	Monique Haley	Akoya Afrobeat Ensemble
<i>Evolution of a Dream</i>	Sherry Zunker	Dave Stewart & His Rock Fabulous Orchestra
<i>Forbidden Boundaries</i>	Frank Chaves	Original Score by Evan Solot; Michael Cusson, Ryuichi Sakamoto; Gustavo Santoalalla; edited by John Menella/id Music
2010		
<i>Three</i>	Robert Battle	Eleventh Hour; Art of Noise; Taiko Drums; Les Tambours du Bronx
<i>Ella (Company Premiere)</i>	Robert Battle	Ella Fitzgerald
<i>Suppose</i>	Lauri Stallings	Deadbeat; Gustavo Santoalalla; additional soundscape by John Menella/id Music
<i>Risoluta</i>	Sidra Bell	Original Score by Dennis Bell

2011*Al Sur Del Sur*

Sabrina & Ruben Veliz

Astor Piazzolla; Roberto Alvarez; Victor Lavellen; Alfredo D'Angelis

*Simply Miles, Simply Us*Conceived, directed and choreographed
by Frank Chaves;
Assistant Choreographers: Christian
Denice & Ricky Ruiz

Miles Davis

2012*World Premiere*

Mauro Astolfi

TBD

World Premiere

Frank Chaves

TBD



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RESIDENCY & OUTREACH

STREET BEAT – DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES

River North Dance Chicago hand jives and hustles through history with its lively and informative program **Street Beat-Dance Through the Decades**. **Street Beat** teaches students about the historical and social conditions of the 20th century and how they influenced dance. Each decade from the Roaring 20s to the Groovy 70s to the Hip-Hoppin' 90s is introduced with a narrative that comments on major events, historical figures, popular music, and fashion. The dancers bring each decade to life with dance performances in true-to-times fashions – flapper dresses, poodle skirts, polyester and all:

The 1920s	The Charleston
The 1930s	Ballroom
The 1940s	Jitterbug, Swing, Lindy Hop
The 1950s	Hand Jive
The 1960s	The Frug
The 1970s	The Hustle and the Bump
The 1980s	MTV/Street Dancing
The 1990s	Hip Hop

Street Beat concludes with the dancers engaging the audience in a question and answer session about history, dance, and the dancers themselves.

Street Beat is appropriate for grade school, high school, and family audiences and can be performed in a single class period. A comprehensive study guide is included and is available for three grade levels, K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. The study guides include suggested activities, a glossary of dance terminology, games, and a bibliography of reference materials.

“The whole school was really charged after this terrific performance. It’s exciting to see the students get so into a performance that they continued to imitate some of the dance numbers for days.”

- Eileen Conlon, Conway Elementary School, St. Louis, MO

“The moves and costumes were awesome. You made us dance and laugh.”

- Maria, Blaine Elementary, Chicago, IL

“I loved Street Beat. It was great, exciting and cool but still educational...All of the kids that did not go on this field trip were sorry because they heard us talking about how great it was.”

- Kim Riggs, student, Gentry, AR



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MASTER CLASSES

River North Dance Chicago is pleased to offer Master Classes taught by the artistic directors or company members. Classes are typically 1 ½ –2 hours and include warm-up, instruction on technique, and combinations. Classes can be customized to various levels of ability in jazz, ballet, modern, and partnering.



DANCE FOR NON-DANCERS

River North Dance Chicago offers *Dance for Non-Dancers*, movement workshops specifically tailored for those who don't have a dance background but would like to experience a dance class.

CLASSROOM RESIDENCIES

In a unique in-classroom interactive format, River North Dance Chicago dancers share with students their experiences as professional dancers. Students watch

a video introduction to the Company and attend a company rehearsal. In addition, the dancers talk about life as a dancer, how they got there, how dance affects their health, and life on the road when they are touring.

OPEN REHEARSALS

Special arrangements can be made to offer a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of concert dance. This could include a chance to meet and speak with the artistic director, dancers, or technical staff.

CURTAIN TALK

Immediately following the performance, audience members have an opportunity to talk with the River North Dance Chicago artistic director in a casual question and answer format. Other "Meet the Artists" opportunities are also available.





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PRESS

“...this is one sleek, confident, athletic, daring, versatile company that easily can compete with the best of them.” Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“...it was clear that River North is solidly established, operating at the top of its eclectic, audience-friendly game.” Wynn Delacoma, *MusicalAmerica.com*

“River North Chicago Dance Company pulled out all the pyrotechnic stops. The performance left an indelible montage of high-octane body percussion, lush lines and evocative curves.” Sid Smith, *SeeChicagoDance.com*

“There is no other way to say it but this: River North Dance Chicago was on fire....” Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“This company is hotter than hot” Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“Imagine thirteen cannonballs shot onto the stage...and you will have some approximation of what it was like to watch the dancers of River North Chicago Dance Company” Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“RNDC takes risks....nothing in this work is beyond their skill—little is.” Zac Whittenburg, *Time Out Chicago*

“The River North Chicago dancers are astonishingly strong...but on Saturday in the Capitol Theater, playfulness peaked through the almost gymnastic quality of the movement” Lindsay Christians, *The Capitol Times*

“Young, dynamic and eager to experiment – all these qualities are united in River North Chicago Dance Company. ... (they) opened the ballet and dance season in the theater with a performance of pure zest for life. Jazz dance has not been this sexy for a long time.” *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*

“In a stylistically wide-ranging program, the company kept the energy high while allowing for engagingly creative shifts in mood and atmosphere.” Calvin Wilson, *The St. Louis Post Dispatch*

“...in a nutshell, that’s an accurate description of River North Chicago’s style: classic and sophisticated, but with a playful, modern twist.” Nancy Stetson, *Naples Daily News*

“From high drama to low comedy, from torch songs to lyrical love duets, and from abstract modernism to jazzy ballroom style--River North...is a contemporary company that can do it all, and do it with technical splendor, to boot.” Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“Sexy, daring, and fluid, they lit up the stage...” Margaret Putnam, *The Dallas Morning News*

“...a lush panorama of choreography...” Lucia Mauro, *Chicago Tribune*

“River North Chicago Dance Company was poetry in motion...in a program that was engaging, colorful, and exhilarating.” Terry Rindfleisch, *LaCrosse Tribune*

“Alcohol isn’t the only intoxicant. Try River North Dance Company. The Chicago troupe worked its way into the bloodstream...in about four seconds flat and kept the buzz...going for a full 95 minutes.” Margaret Putnam, *The Dallas Morning News*

“..sizzled like ice droplets on a hot skillet.” Marilyn Jackson, *The Arizona Republic*

“Jazz dance never looked so...funny, mystical, poignant, inexplicable, sexy.” *The Arizona Republic*

