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Dancing days are here again with fest in park

3RD SEASON | Four free events are set for Aug. 18-22

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The details are still sketchy. But the good news is this: The Chicago Dancing Festival, which attracted tens of thousands of Chicago dance fans to Millennium Park in the summers of 2007 and 2008 (when it drew an audience of more than 13,000), will return for its third season of all-free programming, with four events scheduled for Aug. 18-22.

This year's festival, presented in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art and the City of Chicago, will kick off Aug. 18 with an indoor performance, "New Voices," at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph.

The program will showcase the work of some of the most talented newer American choreographers, including Robert Battle, Jessica Lang, Edwaard Liang and Trey McIntyre, performed by dancers from the Joffrey Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, River North Chicago Dance Company and others. A "Modern Masters" program on Aug. 20 will feature works by such familiar choreographers as Alvin Ailey, William Forsythe, Lar Lubovitch and Jerome Robbins, to be performed by dancers from Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Joffrey Ballet, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and others.

The festival will culminate on Aug. 22 in "A Celebration of American Dance." This outdoor performance at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion will include some of the country's most esteemed dancers and companies.

All performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Additional details, including information about ticket reservations and a fourth event to be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago, will be announced at a later date.

The Chicago Dancing Company was founded by choreographer and native Chicagoan Lar Lubovitch and Chicago dancer Jay Franke as a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to present a wide variety of excellent dance and build audiences for dance in Chicago. For more information, go to www.chicagodancingfestival.com.

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