

Culture Shock Chicago



Revealing the power and beauty of hip hop



THE COMPANY

Culture Shock ® Chicago is dedicated to innovative performance, artist development and community enrichment, revealing the power and beauty of hip hop to diverse audiences. The company performs and tours throughout Illinois, the United States and Canada under the direction of artistic director, Christopher Courtney.

Culture Shock Chicago has a unique fingerprint in the arts community. Through their distinct take on hip hop culture and dance and their ability to make it universally accessible, they appeal to a wide spectrum, crossing all audience boundaries. Their audiences are as diverse as their company; all ages, income levels, genders, races and sexual orientation. Hip hop is a universal culture and this provides the company cross-over appeal to all audiences. Culture Shock Chicago takes a fresh approach to hip hop dance, taking their roots from the streets and mixing them with theatrical production. The company creates works with elaborate props and staging, unique costuming and distinct musical choices. As a company, they choose to elevate hip hop dance to a higher level and are forging their own path by bringing their unique style into the concert dance world.

Culture Shock Chicago is a highly sought-after company who performs for over 25,000 audience members annually, both physically and virtually in premier venues and events including the Annual Choreographer's Showcase, Dance Chicago, Pillsbury product launch with gospel recording artists "Mary Mary", Lollapalooza with Adidas, Six Flags Great America with Coca Cola, the McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade, and Nike and First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign launch.

Education and outreach are cornerstones of Culture Shock Chicago and the company provides lecture demonstrations, workshops and master classes, both individually and in conjunction with performances. Culture Shock Chicago is a D.E.A (Drug Education Administration) partner and provides dance instruction to schools in underserved neighborhoods and communities.

For more information about programs and upcoming performances of Culture Shock Chicago, please visit our website at www.cultureshockdance.org/chicago.



CHRISTOPHER COURTNEY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Artistic Director, Christopher Courtney discovered his love for the performing arts at a young age and started his artistic path as a musician. With a musical career spanning over 20 years, he played The Chicago Jazz Fest, Chicago Symphony Center with the likes of the "All City Jazz Band", "Gallery 37 Latin Big Band", "The Nacrobats", "The David Boykin Expanse" and guested with the "William Kurk Enterprise". Chris then used his talent and musicality to forge a dance career and is currently the Artistic Director of Culture Shock Chicago and an Artistic Associate with Chicago Dance Crash. He has performed on the same stage with Ludacris, Cam'ron, Busta Rhymes, Stick and Move, Chicago Dance Crash, Corpo, LIFE, Fivestar Boogie, Common and Kanye West. Chris was nominated in 2009 by The Black Theater Alliance Awards for Best Choreography in a Music/Dance Program for "The.....Go". His World Premiere of "Reverb" was voted Audience Favorite at *Duets for My Valentine 2010*. He most recently was awarded the Dance Chicago Outstanding Choreographer (Body of Work) Award for his work with Culture Shock and Chicago Dance Crash. Onstage, Chris has received critical acclaim for his lead roles in Corpo's production of "Coppelius" and as Busta Keaton in Chicago Dance Crash's "Busta". Commercially, Christopher has choreographed a flash mob at Chicago's Union Station for Pillsbury with gospel duo "Mary Mary" and choreographed and staged the OfficeMax "Elf Yourself" float in the McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2012. His work can also be seen on film in the "Get Hybrid" mattress commercial and he recently performed and choreographed for Adidas-Lollapalooza, Coca Cola and Nike. Chris hopes to continue sharing his gift for the arts....ever growing, expressing, learning and motivating others. His unique and authentic perspective makes him a gifted and sought after teacher, choreographer and performer.



TOURING PROGRAM

"RADIANCE"

"Radiance" is Culture Shock Chicago's newest touring piece that takes the concept of embodying every color in the spectrum, ultimately creating an open view of urban diversity in Chicago. When the dancers glow under the black light, there is no color or race to be seen. Illuminated, there is no identifying way of judging typical societal labels of race, sexuality, sometimes even gender. From an urban and street point of view, "Radiance" puts a twist on the images the audience sees. It takes the photographic negative of a social negative to radiate all imperfections and perfections onto the stage; making every color of the spectrum visible and personifying humanity. This visually stunning show will have audiences captivated and runs approximately 60 minutes.

Culture Shock Chicago travels with its lighting designer who serves as production technical director and stage manager. Set pieces must be transported by truck from Chicago to the presenter's venue.



WHAT PRESENTERS HAVE TO SAY

"Intense, on top of it, breaking through the restrictions, Culture Shock Chicago, does just what its name says and we are all moved by them. They set the standard for Chicago Hip Hop. A presenter's treasure, they know how to get audiences moving."

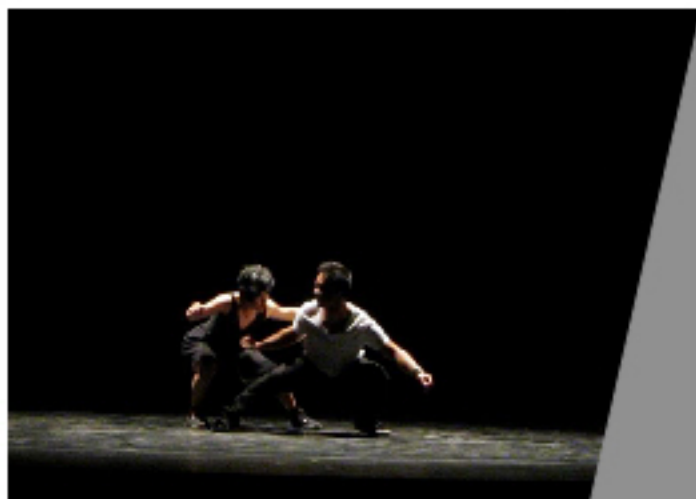
— John Schmitz, Artistic Director for Dance Chicago

"Culture Shock Chicago brought an incredible amount of skill, professionalism, and fun to their performances and classes in Millennium Park."

— Jack McLaman, former program manager, Millennium Park / Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture.

"Thank you so much for sending us such fun, engaging and talented performers. The performance and engagement was just perfect. So many people, staff and students, had great reactions and comments."

— Lindsay Leghorn, Roosevelt Faculty



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

ASSEMBLIES

Culture Shock Chicago brings a high energy, entertaining and interactive performance to schools, community centers, libraries and colleges/universities. Programming can be tailored to fit your organization's specific needs, themes, topics or audiences. Rooted in a deep love and respect for education and teaching, Culture Shock Chicago company members serve on faculty at several of Chicago's and its neighboring suburbs' finest studios.

Sample Assembly Topics include:

- Motivational
- Fitness & Health
- Drug Free/Active Lifestyle (Culture Shock Chicago is a DE A/D A R E instructor & partner)
- Positive Choices

RESIDENCIES

Culture Shock Chicago has always fostered arts education and lifelong learning. Our Hip Hop instruction is supplementary to our performances and offers the opportunity for personal self expression and movement within the genre's many forms. Our residencies programs are designed to use art and movement as an outlet to express oneself in a positive manner. We teach the positive and empowering elements of hip hop to produce the next generation of great leaders.

MASTER CLASSES

Culture Shock Chicago's Master Classes can be tailored to fit beginner through advanced dancers, as well as family and group events.

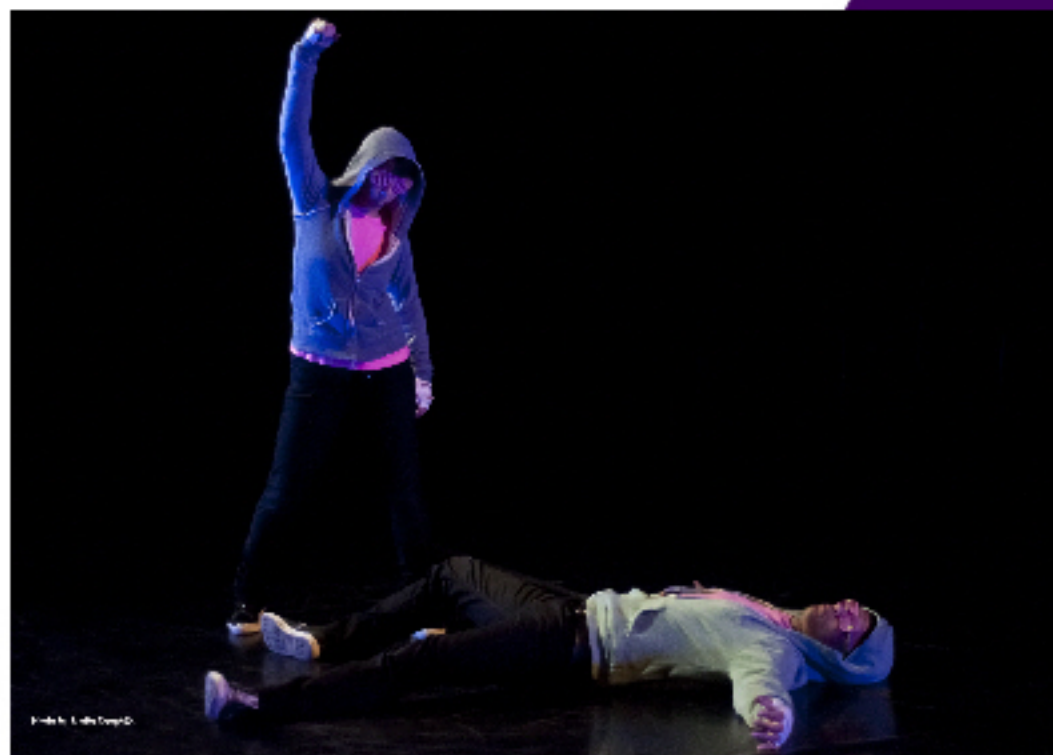
"The professionalism, enthusiasm and respect the dancers have for what they do and for the individuals they work with is so evident and it just warms my heart every summer we have gotten to facilitate this program."

— Maggie Goode, Recreation Coordinator for NEDSRA

"What a wonderful experience for our kids! They not only got to see a great dance group perform, they actually got to learn some moves themselves! We love Culture Shock, they get the kids actively involved and promote a good message."

— Susan Schab, New Buffalo Township Library





CONTACT US

Culture Shock Chicago

Mailing Address:

4343 N. Keeler Ave. #1
Chicago, IL 60641

Telephone: 773-837-0341

chicago@cultureshockdance.org

www.cultureshockdance.org/chicago

