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HAMMERSTEP



Co-
Founders
Jason
Oremus and
Garrett
Coleman in
Boston,
2009

A new dance show that has sparked interest from the UK to Japan has finally landed in the US! *Hammerstep*, the first touring show of its kind, strives to overcome cultural and socioeconomic differences through a nuanced integration of historically rebellious forms of urban movement. This groundbreaking show integrates traditional Irish step, tap, and hip hop dance forms and presents them through cutting edge choreography, lights, and sound in a way that reinvents the typical Irish dance show experience for an audience.

Hammerstep's entertaining yet thought-provoking movement not only elevates dance to a new level but strives to spark social change in the process. As products of the urban environment themselves, *Hammerstep*'s founders use urban spaces as the

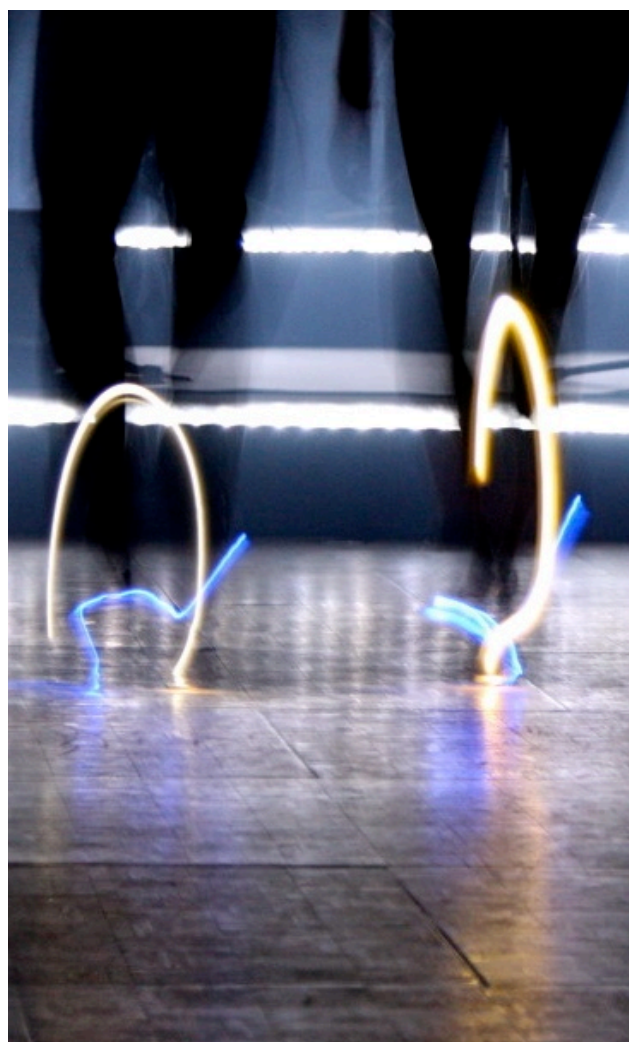
inspirational grounds for exploring new movement and for staging social and political commentary.

Created and directed by two-time World Champion Irish step dancer Garrett Coleman and former lead of *Riverdance* Jason Oremus, *Hammerstep* made its official US preview in May 2011 with two performances at the Lincoln Center Atrium alongside Grammy Award Nominee Dave Eggar. More recently, the company performed at the prestigious Palace Theatre on London's West End.

The performances have been met with great acclaim and have set the stage for US and European tours. A highlight reel of the performances can be found [HERE](http://www.hammerstep.com) or at www.hammerstep.com.

“[Hammerstep] shared a show absolutely like no other with Lincoln Center audiences tonight.”

Hillary McAndrew Plate
Senior Manager
Lincoln Center Atrium



About the Show

This versatile dance performance will showcase some of the best talent from around the world in an amalgamation of various art forms. The show explores the possibilities for fusing hip hop, tap, and Irish step dance into a new and unique style. Drawing on a variety of dance forms reinvigorates formerly unique genres while breaking down movement styles that are traditionally more constricting choreographically.

The movement will be accompanied and influenced by an impressive multimedia audiovisual component. Signature, modern costuming will include a reinvention of the traditional dance shoe. Innovative lighting of the shoes and footwork and projection of synchronized equalizers, animations and silhouette imagery will be incorporated into the choreography. A live DJ and band—incorporating contemporary fiddle anchored with hip hop and electronica— will be

used upstage, and an audiovisual element will be projected in the background. While these components fuel the action of the show, it is the dancers that represent *Hammerstep*'s thematic elements. These include depicting conflict and collaboration, examining marginalization and oppression, and exploring the opportunity for creative and social progression.

Hammerstep's touring shows can be tailored for site specific venues, large theaters and concert halls. We plan to potentially showcase local dance and music talent at performances, both as a means to attract new audiences and to give individuals invaluable performance experience. Each touring show may consist of two acts totaling up to 90 minutes in length, while other performances at festivals or corporate functions will be tailored to the venue or event.

Street Initiatives and Public Outreach

The *Hammerstep* mission is an evolving mechanism tailored to historically relevant sites and current social affairs. By visiting places such as children's hospitals, community centers and local charity events, we plan to not only garner local support and media exposure but to also give back to the community. Activism and neighborhood empowerment initiatives will unite a grass roots audience base around the cause of urban revitalization. We believe this will allow us to break the barriers that constrict dance forms by integrating them into community life.

The *Hammerstep* crew recently returned from an outreach performance workshop in Soweto, South Africa, at the Rena Le Lona Creative Center for Children. The organization provides programming for underprivileged youth, many who have been orphaned due to AIDS. *Hammerstep's* performance and workshop sessions in Irish, Flamenco and Hip Hop music and dance, provided an artistic and cultural exchange for everyone involved.

"Dance is a universal language. The children were really eager to learn a new dance culture – Irish dance; and equally the *Hammerstep* crew were also excited to see the children share their Gumboot dance moves with them. When the two met on the dance floor, it was an overwhelming cultural experience – like no other. I'm glad to have been part of it."

Sinethemba Modungwa
Rena Le Lona Project Manager

Footage from the event can be found [here](#) or at www.hammerstep.com.

Our guerilla street marketing team 'Sneaky Steppers' have received excellent feedback on YouTube and the online community. Our latest project was an Irish dance flash mob for St Patrick's Day 2011 at Central Station, Sydney, in association with Tourism Ireland and the cast of Riverdance. The Sneaky Steppers orchestrated over 150 dancers into a spontaneous outbreak of Irish dance, making news around the world and going viral over the internet, gaining over two million hits on YouTube within a year.

Hammerstep Outreach in Soweto, South Africa

Left: Rena Le Lona youth perform a Gumboot dance.

Right: Hammerstep Music workshop.



Founding Directors



Garrett Coleman

Traditionally trained in Irish Step dance as a child, Garrett has consistently found himself drawn to types of dance that are rhythmically innovative and that push the boundaries of athleticism through dance. In addition to Irish Step, he has trained in hip hop, tap, and contemporary movement. Following a successful career in the competitive Irish dance realm, in which he won two world titles and numerous other national and international titles, Garrett toured professionally with Riverdance and Trinity Irish Dance Company. Garrett has choreographed performances for cityLive! Productions of Pittsburgh, and performed with musical acts like Cherish the Ladies, The Chieftans, and Gaelic Storm. He has twice been named one of the “Top 100 Irish Americans” by Irish America magazine. He also performed at the Kennedy Center in 2006 as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts and is a National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts award winner (top 2% of artistic talent in the United States). As co-creator of *Hammerstep*, his experience as a dancer and choreographer in the urban environment has honed his artistic vision and acted as inspiration towards *Hammerstep*’s long term mission and development.



Jason Oremus

Jason has been heavily involved in the dancing industry his entire life. Originally from Sydney, Australia, he won 5 consecutive State and National Solo Irish dancing titles from 1999-2003. He also performed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony alongside Tap Dogs at just fifteen years of age. In early 2004, Jason joined the world famous Riverdance. Shortly thereafter, Jason was selected to train for the lead role, and successfully went on to star as the principle male dancer for over four years. Jason has performed with Riverdance for an eight-year period in over 36 countries, and for notable leaders including The Empress of Japan and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Realizing that current Irish dance shows were following a routine and somewhat monotonous pattern since the conception of Riverdance in 1994, Jason created and refined a vision for *Hammerstep* alongside Garrett Coleman in 2009- a new approach to Irish dance that attempts to break the traditional restraints on this engaging art form, while integrating both culturally and socially through dance collaboration and outreach programming.

HS Team



Chris Naish

Shortly after the founding of Hammerstep in 2009, Chris joined the cast as a dancer and has been an integral part of the Hammerstep mission ever since. Not only has Chris won at every major

championship in traditional Irish dancing, he has 10 years of professional touring experience. Highlights include appearing in over 3000 shows in over 30 countries and performing for Royalty & Political figures in some of the world's most prestigious theaters and arenas. He has toured all 50 states of America with Lord of the Dance and was regularly invited to perform in Michael Flatley's personal corporate events. Chris has also performed extensively with Riverdance and was featured on their 'Today's Stars' documentary.



Gilbert Bailey II

Gilbert has worked in studios surrounding the Philadelphia area as an instructor of Hip-Hop, Acro, and Street Jazz. In addition, he has worked as the "Hip-Hop culturalist" and choreographer for the

BHS Hip-Hop squad and is a current member of ABC crew, a dance group out of Bristol. He was recently seen in the URTC production of WORD UP, a staged documentary of Hip-Hop. Gilbert's expertise in this style of dance spans the whole realm of the genre – from breaking to rocking, locking to popping, and house to capoeira. Gilbert has toured the US, South Africa and China with Riverdance and is also employed at Asharp Productions as an MC, Vocalist, and Interactive Dancer. He received a BA in Musical Theatre from Penn State University.



Parker Hall

Parker Hall has been tap dancing since the age of eight. At thirteen, he graduated from the New York Shakespeare Tap Institute, mentored by Ted Levy and Savion Glover. He also made guest

appearances in "Savion Glover Downtown: Live Communication", one of which was on opening night. Parker has toured with Riverdance as lead tap dancer throughout the UK, Europe, Russia, US and Canada, performing in venues such as The Duke on 42nd St, The Kremlin, and the world famous Apollo Theater, both in NYC and London. Some of the legendary tap dancers he's studied with include Derrick Grant (Imagine Tap), Jared Grimes (Choreographer for Cirque Du Soleil) and the late Dr. Buster Brown. Parker is also featured in the instructional tap video "Funky Rhythm Tap".



Cjailon 'Snap Boogie' Andrade

Trained in multiple dance disciplines, Snap is a true hip hopper, having learnt the styles of popping, locking, waving and b-boying by dancing with some of the pioneers of the

original street crews of Boston and NYC, including Mr. Wiggles, Tiny Love and Float Master John. Snap's uncle, also named Snap, was a founding member of the original FloorLords crew. Snap has danced with One Love, FloorLords, BalletRox, and has co-hosted various regional B-Boy Championships in New York and Massachusetts. Snap recently reached the semi-finals of America's Got Talent 2011, and strives to be a good example to kids, showing them that they too can stay off the streets if they cultivate a passion for dance.



Dave Eggar

Grammy nominated cellist and composer Dave Eggar has performed throughout the world including featured solo engagements at Carnegie Hall, the Barbican Center, Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl and many others.

Solo cellist of the American rock band Evanescence, he has performed and recorded with acts in many styles including Coldplay, Tony Benett, Wynton Marsalis, Josh Groban, Tina Turner, the New York City Ballet and Beyonce. Mr. Eggar was awarded the SONY records Elevated Standards Award in classical music as well as fellowships and awards from Time magazine, the Leonard Bernstein foundation, ASCAP, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He holds a PhD from the Juilliard school in music and a BA in biophysics from Harvard University.



Chuck Palmer

A gifted percussionist, Chuck has performed and recorded with artists including Frank Ocean, Gil Goldstein, RJD2, Sly Dunbar, Tony Scherr, Lucia Micarelli, Itaal Shur,

Luciano, Dr. Ralph Stanley, Handel Tucker, Heather Holley, Morley, Alex Skolnick, Rachael Sage, The City and Horses, Waway Saway and the Talaandig Tribe, and Amy Lee from Evanescence. Mr. Palmer co-produced Dave Eggar's latest Grammy-nominated release Kingston Morning and is a founding member of the group Deoro.



Pat Mangan

Fiddler and DJ Patrick Mangan is from Brooklyn, New York. The two-time All-Ireland champion

studied with renowned player and teacher, Brian Conway. At sixteen, Patrick appeared in Riverdance on Broadway, becoming the youngest fiddle player in the show's history. Since then, he has performed with Riverdance as a featured soloist from 2006 through 2011. He has dazzled audiences across the US, Europe and Asia. He has also been a member of the John Whelan Band, performed with renowned vocalist Cathie Ryan, and neo-Celtic group Whirligig. Other accolades include first prize honors for instrumental composition in the BMG-sponsored World of Expression competition in 2002 for his piece "September Sky". Also an avid DJ, Patrick fuses his eclectic fiddle skills with live synth effects and beats during performances.

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