

Northwestern University Dance Program proudly presents:

# JUMP RHYTHM JAZZ PROJECT

## Summer Intensive In *Jump Rhythm Technique*<sup>TM</sup>

### **The Intensive:**

JRJP's Summer Intensive in the theory and practice of *Jump Rhythm Technique*<sup>TM</sup> is open to: all intermediate to advanced level dancers; dance teachers of diverse age groups and styles; and tap-dance, rhythm-dance, and movement artists who are interested in deepening their rhythmic approach to dancing. Minimum age: 18. The participants take two technique classes per day (one in jazz, one in tap), plus a selection of courses from JRJP repertory, rhythmic approaches to choreography, and the video-discussion course: American Rhythm Dancing and the African American Performance Aesthetic.

All technique and repertory classes are taught to the swinging rhythms of jazz and the blues, and to the percussive rhythms of Latin jazz, blues-based funk, and hip-hop. Inspired by this soulful music, the *Jump Rhythm Technique* both honors and expands upon the tradition of the rhythm-driven singing and dancing featured in the work of rhythm greats like Bill Robinson, Fred Astaire, Jeni LeGon, John Bubbles, Fayard and Harold Nicholas, Michael Kidd, Carol Haney, Gwen Verdon, Bob Fosse, Chita Rivera, and Gregory Hines.

### **The Technique:**

*Jump Rhythm Technique*<sup>TM</sup> is a rhythm-first approach to dancing. The emphasis is on high-energy, full-bodied rhythm-making – transforming the moving body, accompanied by the scat-singing voice, into an exuberantly percussive, energy-charged drum instrument. Powered by this earthy combination of rhythm and feeling, the classes in Jump Rhythm focus on using jazz-based rhythms to dance “from the inside out.” Further, the technique guides the student to work with the body holistically. Based on JRJP’s innovative approach to alignment called *Standing Down Straight*<sup>TM</sup>, all exercises focus on using gravity-directed motion and biomechanical efficiency to promote healthy, musculo-skeletal function. The result is that students discover that dancing Jump Rhythm is directly related to dancing injury-free.

*Jump Rhythm Technique*'s focus on biomechanical health, rhythm-driven performance, and dancing in community, both as individual and as participant, can be used in two ways: both to strengthen one's progress in the technique itself, and to expand one's technical capability in other dance styles – ballet-based techniques, tap dancing, body percussion, swing dancing, hip-hop forms, music theatre, African dancing, and other forms of world and folk dance.

*Intensive Finale Performance!*  
*June 27, 2008 ~ 7:00pm*

### **The Recognition:**

The value of this unique movement pedagogy is reflected in the following honors: the documentary on the approach, Jump Rhythm Jazz Project: *Getting There*, received four Emmy<sup>TM</sup> Awards this past year, including individual awards in the category of performer for all JRJP company members; Billy Siegenfeld, the artistic director of JRJP and the creator of *Jump Rhythm Technique*, received Chicago's highest dance honor, the Ruth Page Award, citing him for “his vibrant dance artistry”; *Dance Teacher* placed Siegenfeld on its “Twentieth Century Timeline of Choreographers and Innovators in Jazz”; and *Dancer* magazine called the *Jump Rhythm Technique* “the first genuine jazz technique in forty years.”

**The Instructors:**

Billy Siegenfeld

\* founder, artistic director, choreographer, and ensemble member of JRJP

\*Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence,  
Northwestern University

\*Fulbright Senior Specialist in the Theory and Practice of  
*Jump Rhythm Technique*, Finland

And...

Amanda Benzin, Brandi Coleman (Associate Artistic Director), Jordan Kahl, Jodi M. Kurtze, Leo Lamontagne, Glenn Leslie, Heidi Malnar.

Each of these ensemble members of JRJP received a 2006-2007 Emmy<sup>TM</sup> Award in "Outstanding Achievement for Individual Excellence On Camera/Performer" for the documentary *Jump Rhythm Jazz Project: Getting There*.

**The Details:**

All JRJP Summer Intensive events will take place at Northwestern University's Marjorie Ward Marshall Dance Center located just north of Chicago on the beautiful lakefront campus in Evanston.

*Dates:* June 23-27, 2008

*Place and Contact:*

10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

847.491.3147

nu-dance@northwestern.edu

*Tuition and Housing:*

Tuition for the week is \$500 by June 1st, 2008.

Limited housing is available on campus for under \$250 for the week.

Please specify if you will need housing on campus on your application request.

Applications are sent by mail or via email. Please call or send in the attached form for further information.

## **Early Registration Discount Sign up by April 1st, 2008 for \$450!**

JRJP is a 501(C)3 organization and is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, the Chicago Community Trust, the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Northwestern University and the National Performance Network.