

DELAWARE'S MULTI-DAY DANCE FESTIVAL

2ND ANNUAL

CITY FEST

**DANCE
JUBILEE**

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20TH , 2025

TINA BETZ URBAN ARTIST EXCHANGE

1509 CLIFFORD BROWN WALK WILMINGTON, DE 19801

FREE - NO TICKETS REQUIRED. FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT



MAYOR JOHN CARNEY
OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



COUNTY EXECUTIVE
MARCUS HENRY



FOLLOW

@CITYFESTWILMDE

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

“LAST YEAR, WILMINGTON WITNESSED SOMETHING SPECIAL, THE VERY FIRST CITYFEST DANCE JUBILEE. OUR INAUGURAL FESTIVAL BROUGHT THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN POWERFUL WAYS, WITH PERFORMANCES BY **URBAN BUSH WOMEN, THE DARA J. MEREDITH EXPERIENCE, THE WILMINGTON BALLET, PIECES OF A DREAM, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE** AND SO MANY MORE. THE ENERGY AND LOVE WE FELT PROVED THAT WILMINGTON WAS READY FOR A FESTIVAL THAT CELEBRATES DANCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

THIS YEAR, WE'RE RAISING THE BAR. FROM FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND BLOCK PARTIES, TO LOCAL SHOWCASES AND OUR HEADLINING ACT **STEP AFRIKA!**, THE DANCE JUBILEE IS BACK TO IGNITE OUR CITY WITH MOVEMENT, CULTURE, AND CONNECTION. MY HOPE IS THAT EVERY PERSON WHO ATTENDS FEELS INSPIRED, NOT JUST BY WHAT THEY SEE ON STAGE, BUT BY THE UNITY AND CREATIVITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. WILMINGTON DESERVES THIS MOMENT, AND TOGETHER, WE'RE MAKING HISTORY.”

— MANNY CHACON
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CITYFEST DANCE JUBILEE

 @ISWIFTMOTION



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CITYFEST DANCE JUBILEE 2025

URBAN ARTIST EXCHANGE, WILMINGTON, DE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 6:30 – 8:30 PM | INDUSTRY LEADERS' RSVP EVENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 1:00 – 3:00 PM | **STEP AFRIKA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP @ UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE !** (OPEN TO UD STUDENTS & COMMUNITY)
 - HARTSHORN HALL: 285 THE GREEN, NEWARK, DE 19716
- 6:00 – 9:00 PM | **EVENING AT UAE**
 - 6:00 – 7:00 PM | COMMUNITY WORKSHOP W/ STEP AFRIKA
 - 7:00 – 7:30 PM | Q&A WITH STEP AFRIKA CAST
 - 7:30 – 7:45 PM | BREAK + MUSIC
 - 8:00 – 9:00 PM | GUEST PERFORMANCE: PIECES OF A DREAM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 1:00 – 4:50 PM | **COMMUNITY DANCE WORKSHOPS (FREE!)**
 - FOUR 50-MIN WORKSHOPS FOR ALL LEVELS FROM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS - SWIPE FOR INSTRUCTOR INFO!
- 5:00 – 6:00 PM | **BLOCK PARTY WITH LIVE DJ**
 - DJ, FOOD TRUCKS, ACTIVITIES, AND MORE
- 6:00 – 7:30 PM | **LIVE DANCE SHOWCASE**
 - YOUTH + ADULT COMPANIES TAKE THE STAGE!
 - PERFORMANCES BY: MELODIC MOVEMENTS, PIECES OF A DREAM, DIARY OF DANCE, BEAT ADDIKTS UNITED, THE WILMINGTON BALLET, L3GACY DANCE, VILLANOVA'S THE SUPERLATIVE, JUST SOLE SDT, DARA J EXPERIENCE, IGNITE.
- 8:00 – 9:30 PM | **STEP AFRIKA! HEADLINING & CLOSING PERFORMANCE**



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WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS & SCHEDULE

1:00 PM: MANNY CHACON - HIP HOP & CULTURE



MANNY CHACON IS A PROFESSIONAL DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER, AND EDUCATOR WHOSE ARTISTRY BLENDS HIP HOP, AFRO-DIASPORIC MOVEMENT, AND THE BRAZILIAN ART OF CAPOEIRA. WITH YEARS OF PERFORMANCE AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE ACROSS SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, AND STAGES NATIONWIDE, MANNY USES DANCE AS BOTH A CULTURAL BRIDGE AND A TOOL FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING. HIS WORKSHOP WILL OFFER PARTICIPANTS AN ENGAGING, HIGH-ENERGY EXPLORATION OF RHYTHM, MOVEMENT, AND EXPRESSION DESIGNED TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL LEVELS WHILE INSPIRING CONFIDENCE AND CREATIVITY.

2:00 PM: CHRIS DEVANY - CAPOEIRA



BORN AND RAISED IN WILMINGTON, CHRIS DEVANY HAS OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE STUDYING THE BRAZILIAN ART OF CAPOEIRA. HE TRAINED UNDER MASTER ADENILSON DOS SANTOS AND LATER EARNED THE DISTINGUISHED TITLE OF MESTRE, BECOMING THE FIRST DELAWARE NATIVE TO DO SO. CHRIS CONTINUES TO TEACH AND PERFORM CAPOEIRA, PERCUSSION, AND MOVEMENT NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, SHARING THE RICH CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF BRAZIL.

3:00 PM: DARA J. MEREDITH - CHOREO THROUGH GESTURES



DARA J. MEREDITH IS A CELEBRATED CHOREOGRAPHER, DANCER, AND EDUCATOR KNOWN FOR HER DYNAMIC WORKS THAT FUSE AFRICAN DIASPORIC MOVEMENT WITH CONTEMPORARY DANCE. A FORMER LONGTIME COMPANY MEMBER WITH ELEONE DANCE THEATRE, SHE HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED BY INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART AND CONTINUES TO MAKE A NATIONAL IMPACT THROUGH HER CHOREOGRAPHY. HER WORK HIGHLIGHTS THE INTERSECTION OF HISTORY, IDENTITY, AND CULTURAL STORYTELLING.

4:00 PM: KYLE CLARK - HOUSE



KYLE "JUST SOLE" CLARK IS A PHILADELPHIA-BASED STREET DANCE ARTIST, EDUCATOR, AND CHOREOGRAPHER. AS CO-FOUNDER OF JUST SOLE! STREET DANCE THEATER, HE BRINGS HIP HOP, HOUSE, AND OTHER STREET STYLES TO THE STAGE WITH ARTISTRY AND AUTHENTICITY. THROUGH PERFORMANCE AND TEACHING, KYLE CELEBRATES AND PRESERVES BLACK STREET DANCE CULTURE WHILE INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MOVERS.



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MEET OUR HEADLINER

STEP AFRIKA! IS THE WORLD'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL DANCE COMPANY DEDICATED TO THE TRADITION OF STEPPING, AN ART FORM ROOTED IN AFRICAN AMERICAN FRATERNITY AND SORORITY CULTURE. SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1994, THE COMPANY HAS BECOME A GLOBAL AMBASSADOR FOR THE ART OF PERCUSSIVE DANCE, COMBINING RHYTHMIC MOVEMENT, AND LIVE MUSIC TO CREATE ELECTRIFYING PERFORMANCES THAT EDUCATE, INSPIRE, AND ENTERTAIN. STEP AFRIKA! HAS TOURED INTERNATIONALLY, PERFORMING AT FESTIVALS, THEATERS, AND SCHOOLS, AND HAS WORKED TO PRESERVE AND CELEBRATE AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL TRADITIONS THROUGH THEIR INNOVATIVE CHOREOGRAPHY.

IN ADDITION TO THEIR PERFORMANCE WORK, STEP AFRIKA! ENGAGES COMMUNITIES THROUGH WORKSHOPS, MASTERCLASSES, AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO EMPOWER YOUTH AND ADULTS ALIKE. THEIR ARTISTRY HIGHLIGHTS PRECISION, CREATIVITY, AND STORYTELLING, CONNECTING AUDIENCES TO THE HISTORY AND RICHNESS OF STEPPING WHILE FOSTERING CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING. AS THE HEADLINING ACT OF THE 2025 CITYFEST DANCE JUBILEE, STEP AFRIKA! BRINGS AN UNPARALLELED LEVEL OF ENERGY AND EXCELLENCE, CLOSING THE FESTIVAL WITH A PERFORMANCE THAT PROMISES TO BE BOTH UNFORGETTABLE AND TRANSFORMATIVE.



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