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Tim Ward
H+A International
312.332.4650 ext. 18
tward@h-a-intl.com

**THE BEST OF 'DANCE CHICAGO' OPENS 2011 WITH
DR. MORRIS BINKLEY MEMORIAL PERFORMANCE**
Part of Fermilab's Cultural Events Art Series

CHICAGO, December 15, 2010 – Dance Chicago, the largest dance festival of its kind in the world, will kick-off 2011 with a special memorial performance dedicated to Dr. Morris Binkley on February 19, 2011, at Ramsey Auditorium in Wilson Hall on the campus of Fermi Lab in Batavia, Illinois at 8:00 PM.

The Best of Dance Chicago is an international touring group that consists of Chicago's most vibrant dancers, choreographers and dance masters selected by Artistic Director John Schmitz to represent Dance Chicago. The amazing artists will be honoring the memory of long time Auditorium Committee volunteer and lover of the Dance Chicago Festival, Dr. Morris Binkley.

"The Best of Dance Chicago is about incredible movement, great music and unbridled passion. This is the latest in new dance artistry presented in a most exhilarating program," said Schmitz.

Dr. Morris Binkley was an experimental physicist at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois from 1973 until his death 12/27/09. In 1983, he joined the

Collider Detector Facility (CDF) Department to develop tracking systems, and continued an active member of the experiment even after his retirement. In addition to his work on physics experiments, he spent over 20 years, many as chair, as a volunteer on the Auditorium Committee at Fermilab, which is responsible for the Arts Series and the Lecture Series of presentations for the general public given monthly at the lab.

A devoted music, theater and dance supporter, Morris encouraged emerging musicians and performers, and was a regular attendee at student theater productions at Loyola University and Northwestern University as well as more traditional venues. He also loved American folk music and was proud of his friendship with activist/environmentalist folksinger Pete Seeger.

His wife Suzanne stated, ‘Over the years, he became quite knowledgeable about dance and would organize groups to go in to Dance Chicago to see what was new and exciting and he developed a kind of shorthand to remind himself of what each dance was like.’

John Schmitz, Founder and Artistic Director of Dance Chicago said of Morris, “he was one of the best friends Dance Chicago has ever had. We loved performing for Morris and his spirit will always be with us.”

Dance Chicago, which was founded by John Schmitz, has gained critical acclaim around the world for its unique style of entertainment. Dance Chicago features a dizzying array of dance styles ranging from hip-hop, ballet and tap, to Latin, jazz and contemporary to suit every discerning taste. The performers have entertained over 100,000 people around the world with their unique styles of dance.

Open to the public, general admission tickets are \$28 for adults and \$14 for ages 18 and under and can be purchased online at www.dancechicago.com or by calling 630-840-ARTS.

If you would like more information on Dance Chicago go to www.dancechicago.com.

CALENDAR INFORMATION

Fermilab Art Series Presents
The Best of Dance Chicago
Morris Binkley Memorial Performance

February 19, 2011 at 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$28 adult and \$14 for ages 18 and under

Kirk Road & Pine Street, Batavia, IL 60510 - 0500

Tickets by Phone: 630.840.ARTS(2787) or online www.dancechicago.com

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ABOUT DANCE CHICAGO

Dance Chicago 2011 is a month-long festival featuring the largest and most diverse variety of Chicago's local dance companies. The event, which features over 200 premieres, 250 companies and over 3,000 artists in 13 different programs, will perform at Stage 773, October 31 through November 20, 2011.

Dance Chicago was founded in 1995 by Artistic Director and Curator John Schmitz. The event, now celebrating its seventieth season, is the cornerstone of the fall dance season. From major companies like the Joffrey Ballet and the Dutch National Ballet to the new small dance troupes and young independent artists, Dance Chicago continues to offer the broadest range of dance styles. For the full schedule and roster and of participating companies please visit www.dancechicago.com.