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Hubbard Street + The Second City announce casting for *The Art of Falling*

Ten performances at the Harris Theater begin June 9
Two Saturday matinées added, June 11 and 18 at 3pm

For immediate release May 10, 2016 • High resolution photos available

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CHICAGO – [Hubbard Street Dance Chicago](#) Artistic Director Glenn Edgerton and [Second City Theatricals](#) President Erica Daniels are delighted to announce casting and additional performances for Hubbard Street + The Second City's acclaimed collaboration, *The Art of Falling*, at the [Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park](#), located at 205 East Randolph Street in Chicago. Single tickets are now on sale for [this special encore engagement, opening June 9](#). **Two matinée showtimes have been added**, at 3pm on Saturday, June 11 and on Saturday, June 18, **extending the engagement to ten performances through June 19, 2016**.

Helmed by Jeff Award-winning director Billy Bungeroth (*The Second City Guide to the Opera*), the largest creative team in Hubbard Street's 38-year history, including more than 30 performers, was assembled to devise *The Art of Falling*, written by Tim Mason with Carisa Barreca, T. J. Jagodowski, Kate James, Chris Redd and the casts of [The Second City](#); and choreographed by Alejandro Cerrudo, Lucas Crandall, Jonathan Fredrickson, Terence Marling and Robyn Mineko Williams. Musical direction, original composition and sound design for *The Art of Falling* is by Julie B. Nichols, with additional instrumentation by John W. Lauer, and Hubbard Street Dancer David Schultz. The show's improvised scenes are coached and created by T.J. Jagodowski and Hubbard Street 2 Director Terence Marling, with set designs by Martin Andrew, lighting by Michael Korsch, costumes by Branimira Ivanova, properties design by Tierra G. Novy and video design and production by HMS Media.

Reprising the roles they created for the October 2014 world premiere of *The Art of Falling* are Barreca and Mason, Joey Bland and Tawny Newsome. Christina Anthony, who joined *The Art of Falling* for its November 2015 tour to Los Angeles, returns for this encore engagement; and making his Chicago debut in *The Art of Falling* is John-Michael Lyles, based in New York City. Hubbard Street's [16-member main company and its seven-member ensemble for early-career artists, Hubbard Street 2](#), complete the cast at each performance.

Christina Anthony (Earnestine, Ensemble) is a writer, performer and alumna of The Second City, where she co-wrote three original revues: *The Absolute Best Friggin' Time of Your Life*, *Studs Terkel's Not Working* and *Brother Can You Spare Some Change?* Before joining The Second City Touring Company, she made her debut as Juliet in *The Second City's Romeo and Juliet Musical: The People vs. Friar Laurence, the Man Who Killed Romeo and Juliet*. As a vocalist and improviser, she was most recently seen off-Broadway in Hunter Bell's *Found* at the Atlantic Theatre, and on T.J. Miller's album *The Extended LP*. Anthony's regional credits include the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, New York Stage and Film, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Her film and TV credits include *Key & Peele* and the sketch-standup hybrid *Mash Up* on Comedy Central, *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell* on FXX, *ER* on NBC and *The Dilemma* from Universal Pictures. You can follow her on Twitter [@christinanthony](#).

Carisa Barreca (Writer, Kate, Ensemble) is overjoyed to be returning to the Harris Theater for the encore engagement of Hubbard Street + The Second City's collaboration, *The Art of Falling*. Barreca is an alumna of

The Second City's e.t.c. stage, where she performed in three resident stage revues. She was also honored to work with The Second City at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, with Sir Patrick Stewart and Renée Fleming in *The Second City Guide to the Opera*. She was recently awarded Best Actress at The Midwest Independent Film Festival, for her work on the web series she also co-created, *Doomsdate*, online at doomsdateseries.com. She sends her sincere thanks for this opportunity to Billy Bungeroth, The Second City, the producers and amazing cast members of *The Art of Falling*, the e.t.c. stage, her friends, family and Kevin. You can follow Barreca's infrequent and candy-fueled posts on Twitter @cinderisa.

Joey Bland (Richard, Ensemble), who recently relocated from Chicago to Los Angeles, has worked for the past eight years with The Second City, where his highlights include performing in *The Second City Guide to the Opera* and starring in the title role in the hit musical, *Rod Blagojevich Superstar*. Bland is a member of The Improvised Shakespeare Company, a two-time *Jeopardy!* champion, and he sends his thanks to Heather, Jack and Ike.

John-Michael Lyles (Gerry, Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his Chicago debut in Hubbard Street + The Second City's collaboration *The Art of Falling*. In New York City, he has recently been seen relaying congressional messages (in *1776* at New York City Center's Encores!); understudying a depressed and bespectacled film fanatic (in *The Flick* at Barrow Street Theatre); sangin' like a flamboyant, oppressed tenor (in Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Choir Boy* at the Guthrie Theater); dancing as a Rastafarian super-geek (in *Brooklynite* at the Vineyard Theatre); playing a no-nonsense lawyer, long deceased (in *Jasper In Deadland* at Prospect Theater Company); and serving tea as a nearly homeless, disabled Brit (in *The Remarkable Rooming House of Mme Le Monde* at La MaMa). Lyles is a proud member of Actors' Equity and an alumnus of Pace University Musical Theater (2014). Learn more online at john-michaellyles.com and follow him on Twitter @jmlyles1.

Tim Mason (Head Writer, Barry, Mr. Thomas, Ensemble) is an actor, writer and director based in Chicago. He is a veteran of The Second City where he performed on the Mainstage in the award-winning revue, *South Side of Heaven*, as well as in revues on the e.t.c. stage and with the Touring Company. Mason is a member of the critically acclaimed sketch comedy troupe BRICK, and his television credits include appearances on *Sirens*, *Boss*, *Underemployed* and in the recent movie *Unexpected*. He has appeared in numerous TV commercials and is a member of the theater collective FlipFlap, whose inaugural production *The Temp* was a part of the first annual Chicago International Puppet Festival, and he most recently debuted his first full-length musical, *This is How it Goes*, at the University of Chicago. Mason is thrilled to be working with Hubbard Street and is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

Tawny Newsome (Diane, Maria, Ensemble) is pumped to return to Hubbard Street + The Second City's *The Art of Falling*. An alumna of The Second City's Mainstage, e.t.c. stage and Touring Company, Newsome can currently be seen in Seeso's original series *Bajillion Dollar Propertie\$*, has appeared on the podcast and IFC series *Comedy Bang! Bang!*, as well as the improvised podcast *Spontaneanation* with Paul F. Tompkins. In addition to her years of work with The Second City, Newsome's theatrical credits include productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Writers Theatre, and the world premiere of Kristoffer Diaz's *The Upstairs Concierge* at the Goodman Theatre. While in Chicago, Newsome appeared on *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *Sirens* (USA) and *Crisis* (Fox), in accordance with her policy of only appearing on television when her character is shown inside an ambulance. *Here Be Monsters* is an album by Newsome's band, Jon Langford and Skull Orchard, and *Too Proud to Steal* is an album she made with a host of her talented friends. Both are available on iTunes, Spotify, et al. and she is on Twitter @TrondyNewman.

Billy Bungeroth (Director) is a director and musician who is proud to call Chicago home. Resident director, creative director and artistic consultant at The Second City in Chicago, his dark comedies have been staged at venues throughout the country, including the La Jolla Playhouse, the Alliance Theater in Atlanta and Washington D.C.'s Woolly Mammoth Theatre. His recent work with the Lyric Opera of Chicago won him a Joseph Jefferson Award and, as a musician, he has performed worldwide, at Lollapalooza, and by request at the inauguration of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. He has had the honor of directing and performing in a diverse assortment of projects, with today's top entertainers from a wide variety of disciplines, among them Fred Armisen, Phish, Aubrey Plaza, Renée Fleming, Sir Patrick Stewart and Jeff Tweedy. He is very proud of the cast and crew of *The Art of Falling*, and of this show they've made together.

Julie B. Nichols (Music Director, Sound Design, Original Composition) is an alumna of The Second City Mainstage. Her credits include *Let Them Eat Chaos*, *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies* and the Jeff Award-nominated *South Side of Heaven*. Prior to life on the Mainstage, Julie was the Associate Musical Director for Boom Chicago in Amsterdam. Nichols is currently developing new works at the University of Chicago, composing for commercials, and learning about redwoods.

All ticket-holders for the June 9 performance are welcome to enjoy a Champagne reception at the Harris Theater beginning at 5pm. Following the opening-night performance at 6pm, Hubbard Street will hold its **Season 38 Spotlight Ball at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel**, located at 221 North Columbus Drive in Chicago, with **Honorary Chair Andrew Alexander, CEO/Executive Producer of The Second City**. [Click here](#) for additional information regarding Hubbard Street's Season 38 Spotlight Ball.

Single tickets for the Season 38 Summer Series start at \$30 and are available now, online at hubbardstreetdance.com/summer or by phone at 312-850-9744. Discounted rates and add-on experiences are available for groups of 10 or more patrons; visit hubbardstreetdance.com/groups or call 312-850-9744 ext. 164 for more information. The complete performance schedule is as follows:

- Thursday June 9, 2016 at 6pm **followed by the Season 38 Spotlight Ball at 8:30pm**
- Friday June 10, 2016 at 8pm
- **Saturday June 11, 2016 at 3pm PERFORMANCE ADDED**
- Saturday June 11, 2016 at 8pm
- Sunday June 12, 2016 at 3pm **ASL-interpreted performance for the hearing impaired**
- Thursday June 16, 2016 at 7:30pm
- Friday June 17, 2016 at 8pm
- **Saturday June 18, 2016 at 3pm PERFORMANCE ADDED**
- Saturday June 18, 2016 at 8pm
- Sunday June 19, 2016 at 3pm

As part of Hubbard Street's expanded programming for audience engagement, four special pre-performance events will be offered during the Season 38 Summer Series.

In the Harris Theater balcony on **Friday, June 10** and **Friday, June 17 at 7pm**, ticket-holders are welcome to attend casual conversations with members of the creative team for Hubbard Street + The Second City's *The Art of Falling*. The Friday, June 10 Balcony Talk will be hosted by *The Art of Falling* Director **Billy Bungeroth**, and Second City Theatricals President **Erica Daniels**. The Friday, June 17 Balcony Talk will be hosted by **Zachary Whittenburg**, Hubbard Street's Associate Director of Marketing and Communication, and *The Art of Falling* choreographer **Robyn Mineko Williams**. Admission is free and no advance reservations are required.

In the Harris Theater's Level 2 Donor Room on **Sunday, June 12** and **Sunday, June 19 at 2pm**, ticket-holders are welcome to attend "**The First Dance**" cocktail receptions with light refreshments, hosted by members of the creative team for Hubbard Street + The Second City's *The Art of Falling*, to be announced. Admission to "The First Dance" is \$10 per person and space is limited; call 312-850-9744 for reservations.

Named to "best of 2014" lists by the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Newcity*, and lauded by dance and theater critics throughout Chicago, *The Art of Falling* was declared "hugely entertaining and strikingly emotional," and "not-to-be-missed" by *Chicago Tribune* chief theater critic Chris Jones. The production "has real legs," wrote theater and dance critic Hedy Weiss for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "a buoyant spirit counterbalanced by a genuine sense of gravity." Kris Vire, associate editor and chief theater critic at *Time Out Chicago*, said, "it's hard to imagine a more seamless marriage" than Hubbard Street and The Second City's collaboration. "★★★★★."

The world premiere, five-performance engagement of Hubbard Street + The Second City's *The Art of Falling* was commissioned by the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, with support from Sandra and Jack Guthman through the *Imagine* campaign. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago extends special thanks to its Season 38 Sponsors Athletico, Official Provider of Physical Therapy; Chicago Athletic Clubs, Official Health Club; *Crain's Chicago Business*, Season 38 Media Sponsor; and 98.7 WFMT, Season 38 Radio Sponsor. Season 38 Summer

Series Sponsors are Allstate, Community Engagement Partner; Wessex 504 Corporation; and Baker & McKenzie, Diversity Partner.

Second City Theatricals produces an eclectic array of entertainment in venues worldwide. Recent productions include *Let Them Eat Chaos* (Washington D.C.'s Woolly Mammoth Theatre), and *#DateMe*, an original comedy created in partnership with OkCupid. Future productions include the original parody *Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf*, with Writers Theatre; *The Second City's Almost Accurate Guide to U.S. History*, customized for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and *Unelectable You*, a political show developed in partnership with online magazine Slate.com. Second City Theatricals is also the exclusive provider of sketch and improv comedy for Norwegian Cruise Line.

About Hubbard Street

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, under the artistic leadership of Glenn Edgerton, celebrates its 38th season in 2015 and 2016. Among the world's top contemporary dance companies and a global cultural ambassador, Hubbard Street demonstrates fluency in a wide range of techniques and forms, and deep comprehension of abstract artistry and emotional nuance. The company is critically acclaimed for its exuberant and innovative repertoire, featuring works by master American and international choreographers. Hubbard Street's artists hail from four countries and 12 U.S. states, and comprise a superlative ensemble of virtuosity and versatility. Since its founding by Lou Conte in 1977, Hubbard Street has grown through the establishment of multiple platforms. Each is dedicated to the support and advancement of dance as an art form, as a practice, and as a method for generating and sustaining communities of all kinds.

Hubbard Street 2, directed by Terence Marling, cultivates young professional dancers, identifies next-generation choreographers, and performs domestically and abroad, in service of arts education, collaboration, experimentation and audience development.

Extensive **Youth, Education and Community Programs**, directed by Kathryn Humphreys, are models in the field of arts education, linking the performing company's creative mission to the lives of students and families. Hubbard Street also initiated the first dance-based program in the Midwest to help alleviate suffering caused by Parkinson's disease. Youth Dance Program classes at the Hubbard Street Dance Center include Creative Movement and progressive study of technique, open to young dancers ages 18 months to 18 years.

At the **Lou Conte Dance Studio**, directed by founding Hubbard Street Dancer Claire Bataille, workshops and master classes allow access to expertise, while a broad variety of weekly classes offer training at all levels in jazz, ballet, dance fitness, modern, tap, African, hip-hop, yoga, Pilates® and more.

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