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Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Presents Collaborative World Premiere for Season 41 Fall Series

Evening Features Choreography by Emma Portner, Lil Buck and Jon Boogz; Music by Devonté Hynes (Blood Orange); and Musical Performance by Third Coast Percussion

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CHICAGO – Launching its fifth decade as one of the country's leading contemporary dance companies, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Artistic Director **Glenn Edgerton** present a groundbreaking collaboration for its Season 41 Fall Series, taking place September 27, 29 & 30, 2018 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 East Randolph Street). This World Premiere features a live performance by Grammy-award-winning Chicago music sensation **Third Coast Percussion** with music composition by pop music icon **Devonté Hynes** (aka Blood Orange) and choreography by three cutting-edge emerging choreographers, **Emma Portner, Lil Buck** and **Jon Boogz**.

“The Fall Series will be a great combination of artists,” said Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Artistic Director **Glenn Edgerton**. “I’ve been following Lil Buck and Jon Boogz for a while now, Emma Portner is just now on the brink of her explosion into the dance world, and collaborating with Third Coast Percussion has been a dream of mine for years.”

The program is divided into three sections: a work choreographed by Lil Buck and Jon Boogz, co-founders of Movement Art Is (MAI), a musical interlude by Third Coast Percussion performing a new composition by Devonté Hynes, and a piece choreographed by Emma Portner. The evening is centered around themes of sustainability, the principles of Paul Stamets’ book “Mycelium Running,” and the ways in which the environment is affected by the social issues facing our world today. The engagement will feature lighting by **Jim French** and costumes by **Hogan McLaughlin**.

The Season 41 Fall Series combines the talents of a diverse range of highly celebrated creatives, most of whom are working with Hubbard Street for the first time.

Emma Portner has quickly gained critical acclaim for her imaginative viral dance videos, her performance and choreography for Justin Bieber's “Life Is Worth Living” video, as well as choreography for his “Purpose World Tour.” Her choreographic style is described by The New York Times as both “eclectic in approach” and “disciplined in practice.” Portner has also recently been

commissioned to create new work for New York City Ballet and Anne Plamondon for Fall for Dance North.

Lil Buck and **Jon Boogz** are co-founders of MAI, an organization focused on using movement artistry to inspire change in the world, and are each celebrated for their unique innovations in the field. Lil Buck is an ambassador of jookin, an urban dance style originated in Memphis and Jon Boogz is a director/choreographer known for his blend of popping dance style and conceptual art films. The duo promises to “change the way many viewers might think about movement itself” (The Atlantic).

The Guardian hailed musician Devonté Hynes (aka Blood Orange) as “one of modern pop’s most important voices,” while National Public Radio asserted that musical group Third Coast Percussion “play as if they’re a single, eight-armed organism.”

“If you had told us a few years ago who we’d be working with on this project we wouldn’t have believed you,” said **David Skidmore** of Third Coast Percussion. “We’re so excited to see how this experience pushes us as artists, and we cannot wait to share the results with our audience in Chicago.”

Hubbard Street’s Season 41 Fall Series is at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park, located at 205 East Randolph Street in Chicago, and the complete performance schedule is as follows:

- Thursday September 27, 2018 at 7:30pm
- Saturday September 29, 2018 at 8pm
- Sunday September 30, 2018 at 3pm

Free Balcony Talks begin one hour prior to the start of each performance. No advance reservations are required.

Tickets will be available starting August 1, 2018. Single tickets are priced at \$25-\$110 and can be purchased online at hubbardstreetdance.com or by phone at 312-635-3799. 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. Tickets can also be obtained at the Harris Theater box office.

2018–19 Season Subscriptions are \$120-\$352 and can be purchased at the Hubbard Street Ticket Office, by phone at 312-635-3799 and online at hubbardstreetdance.com/subscribe. Thursday performances begin at 7:30pm, Saturday performances begin at 8pm, and Sunday matinée performances begin at 3pm. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s 2018–19 domestic and international touring engagements, special projects, residencies, and additional collaborations will be announced at later dates. Programming is subject to change.

Music commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation. The Season 41 Fall and Spring Series are sponsored by Conagra Brands Foundation. Athletico and Chicago Athletic Clubs are Season 41 Sponsors.

About Emma Portner

Originally from Ottawa, Ontario, Portner is the youngest woman in documented history to choreograph a musical in the West End, titled “Bat Out of Hell: The Musical.” Portner shares her unique abilities internationally, in live settings and across social media platforms. Her performance and choreography appear in Justin Bieber’s “Life Is Worth Living” video as well as on his “Purpose World Tour.” The New York Times calls her “beguiling” and has selected her for their “30 under 30”

documentary series. Dance Spirit Magazine writes that she has an "unstoppable career," is "changing the dance world" and that her "imagination knows no bounds." In 2012, American Dance Awards named Emma "Young Choreographer of the Year." Since then, her choreography has garnered millions of international views and won several awards, including top placement in the 2014 CAPEZIO A.C.E Awards. Upcoming concert dance projects include a Fall for Dance North commission with Montreal-based dancer/choreographer Anne Plamondon and a full length commission for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Forever a student, she hopes to keep pushing boundaries while remaining curious, honest and versatile.

About Movement Art Is (Lil Buck and Jon Boogz)

Movement Art Is (MAI), co-founded by Jon Boogz and Lil Buck, is an organization that uses movement artistry to inspire and change the world while elevating the artistic, educational and social impact of dance. Through movement art films, workshops, performances and exhibitions, MAI is resetting the spectrum of what dance is. MAI's award-winning short film "Color of Reality" directed by Jon Boogz, featuring the art of Alexa Meade and the movement artistry of MAI, went viral in fall of 2016. The film has gone on to receive coverage internationally, winning Great Big Story's "Art as Impact" Award; Best Experimental at Toronto International Short Film Festival; and Concept Video of the Year from World of Dance, among others. MAI's recent/upcoming projects include: a short film created in collaboration with DAIS entitled "AM i A MAN" (April 2017), a performance entitled "Honor Thy Mother" at TED Conference in Vancouver, a live rendition of "Color of Reality" at Aspen Ideas Festival (June 2017) and a collaboration with Facebook recently launched in Spring 2018.

About Third Coast Percussion

Third Coast Percussion is a Grammy Award-winning, artist-run quartet of classically-trained percussionists hailing from Chicago. For more than ten years, the ensemble has forged a unique path in the musical landscape with virtuosic, energetic performances that celebrate the extraordinary depth and breadth of musical possibilities in the world of percussion. The ensemble has been praised for "commandingly elegant" (New York Times) performances, the "rare power" (Washington Post) of their recordings, and "an inspirational sense of fun and curiosity" (Minnesota Star-Tribune). The four members of Third Coast are also accomplished teachers, and since 2013, have served as ensemble-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

About Devonté Hynes (Blood Orange)

Producer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, songwriter and vocalist Devonté Hynes is one of the most influential voices in music today. Raised in England, Hynes started out as a teenage punk in the UK band Test Icicles before releasing two orchestral acoustic pop records as Lightspeed Champion. In 2011, he released "Coastal Grooves," the first of three solo albums under the moniker Blood Orange. His last album, "Freetown Sound," was released to critical acclaim in 2016, and saw Hynes defined as one of the foremost musical voices of his time, receiving comparisons to the likes of Kendrick Lamar and D'Angelo for his own searing and soothing personal document of life as a black man in America. He has collaborated with Solange Knowles, fka twigs, and many other artists, and was recently one of four artists invited to the Kennedy Center to perform alongside Philip Glass. In addition to his production work, he scored the film "Palo Alto," directed by Gia Coppola.

About Hubbard Street

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's core purpose is to bring artists, art and audiences together to enrich, engage, educate, transform and change lives through the experience of dance. Celebrating Season 41 in 2018-19, under the artistic leadership of Glenn Edgerton, Hubbard Street continues to innovate, supporting ascendant creative talent while presenting repertory by internationally recognized living artists. Hubbard Street has grown through the establishment of multiple platforms

alongside the Lou Conte Dance Studio — now in its fifth decade of providing a wide range of public classes and pre-professional training — while extensive Youth, Education, Community, Adaptive Dance and Family Programs keep the organization deeply connected to its hometown. Visit hubbardstreetdance.com for artist profiles, touring schedules, and much more.

Third Coast Percussion Media Inquiries

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