

CHICAGO
TAP THEATRE

PRESENTS



30 feet

TOGETHER

6 feet

APART

A VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE
LIVESTREAMING FROM VIMEO

SUNDAY, JULY 26 @3PM CDT

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

March 8th. We performed Sweet Tap Chicago at the Mayne Stage. We had no idea that it would be the last time we would dance together again until July 1st.

When the pandemic emerged in Illinois and it became obvious that we would not be able to just go back to rehearsing and preparing for the rest of our season, it hit us hard. Like every person on the globe, the isolation and fear that COVID-19 brought to our lives was made even worse by the realization that the things which brought us the most joy, comfort and relief in hard times would also be taken away from us, or at the very least be changed significantly. For CTT, it was the pleasure of making rhythms together and serving the dance.

Organizationally, we sat down and looked at our Mission and our constituents, and we immediately began devising strategies to best serve our constituents while staying true to our Mission. For the first month, we adapted our programming and services so that everything we did was available to the public online, for free, and that it was engaging, original, new and authentic.

First we created CTT's Book Club, a genius idea from Kiki Uttich. Every week for 15 weeks we read a chapter and then met on Friday to discuss them. I asked the authors to appear at each Book Club meeting to talk about their book, their process, and anecdotes from writing it. We talked about 4 books and had participants join from North America, Europe, South America and Africa meeting weekly on Zoom! Most importantly, we became a community, one that looked forward to seeing each other every week. We would often log in early and catch up, share stories about how we were doing and how our city, state and country were faring.

Bolstered by the success of CTT's Book Club, I tell CTT Marketing Director Leah Koch that CTT has a mission to fulfill during the pandemic: create original, exclusive, compelling content every single day on various social media platforms, and make them all free. She, surprisingly, doesn't laugh at me. Instead, she rolls up her sleeves and begins crafting a strategy. We would never have accomplished everything we had done were it not for the brilliant strategizing and endless enthusiasm and hard work of Leah. She also was more than capably backed by our tireless staff (including two interns that started with us during the quarantine!).

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Soon after, we introduced the twice-weekly CTT's Tea on Tap Instagram interview show, the Tuesday Jazz History lectures on Facebook LIVE, Zoom tap classes on Wednesday, performance footage on Fridays, and more. Thanks to the astounding Staff, Board, and Dancers of Chicago Tap Theatre, we accomplished our mission and kept it up for a grueling (and worthwhile!) 4 months. These programs, I am happy to add, are still continuing now, although we have taken a couple small breaks to allow time to prepare this show for you.

When the uprising in America began after the brutal murder of George Floyd, CTT responded quickly and decisively, suspending all activities for a week and instead sharing the histories of Black jazz musicians and tap dancers every day, along with highlighting non-profits that either serve and/or are led by Black people. A donation was made every day to each organization as well. This has become part of our weekly routine now, and one that CTT plans to continue long into the future. CTT firmly believes that Black Lives Matter.

The feedback from our (growing) public was edifying, and validating, and made us feel like we were serving our audience in the right way. And yet, something was missing. I realized that as the Director of a company, I actually serve two constituencies: the public, yes, but also the dancers, musicians and technicians that count on us to create opportunities for them to do what they do best. Dancers need to dance, and the emotional health and morale of the Company needed a project, preferably one that ended with a show.

So, I reached out to the dancers to see if there was interest in doing this. I saw many of the SUPER innovative and clever performances people were putting together from their homes using Zoom, and while I loved them, I felt like CTT maybe had a special opportunity and an obligation to do something different. We wanted to provide a model for dance and theatre companies to create new shows, present them in theaters with all the things we love (Live music! Costumes! Lighting!) BUT do it in a way that did not put people at unnecessary risk and observed ALL rules and guidelines.

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

With the help of SO many people, especially our Business Manager (my wife) Jennifer Yonally, our Staff, our Board (I have the Board of Directors that non-profit organizations DREAM of!), the fine folks at Stonewolf Studios, JC Brooks and the astounding band he pulled together, we did it. And thanks to you, it seems like this might actually be a viable model. Soon (we fervently hope!) we will be back to performing for live audiences, but until then, there is this, a way to present new compelling work in a theater, to an audience that loves dance and misses the arts. We are humbled and honored by your support.

When this pandemic ends, and the word quarantine is no longer part of our daily vocabulary, we will all look around at the strange new world we inhabit. Once we have finished tallying our heartaches over those we lost and the employment we may need to find and the year that changed the course of human history, we will look to artists to help make sense of it: to frame the recent past and shine a light for the way forward. Because of your support, Chicago Tap Theatre will be there, and we will do everything in our power to create new work that reminds us of all the joy and delight that the world can hold.

Unrelated to all of the above, but still very important to me, I wanted to take a moment to share a HUGE thank you to Kirsten "Kiki" Uttich for being the kind of Rehearsal Director, choreographer, dancer and friend that we all dream of having. We've known internally that she would be leaving for a year or so, and with her help and support we have an amazing succession plan in place. CTT's new Rehearsal Director was chosen six months ago, and will be announced soon, but today let us celebrate everything that Kiki has done for Chicago Tap Theatre.



Enjoy the show,

Mark Yonally

Mark Yonally

Artistic Director



30 feet **TOGETHER**
6 feet **APART**

JULY 26, 2020 | 3:00PM CENTRAL TIME
THE ATHENAEUM THEATRE | LIVESTREAMING ON VIMEO

SIX BEATS APART

CHOREOGRAPHY: Mark Yonally | MUSIC: JC Brooks

DANCERS: Isaac Stauffer, Aimee Chase, Jennifer Pfaff Yonally, Molly Smith, Zoe Lesser with JC Brooks

UPSTAGE RUMBA

CHOREOGRAPHY: Case Prime + Sterling Harris | MUSIC: Dave Brubeck

DANCERS: Case Prime, Sterling Harris

BIRDLAND

CHOREOGRAPHY: All Dancers | MUSIC: Weather Report

DANCERS: Mark Yonally, Kirsten Uttich, Sterling Harris, Zoe Lesser, Case Prime, Isaac Stauffer, Heather Latakas, Molly Smith

SUPERSTAR

CHOREOGRAPHY: Kirsten Uttich | MUSIC: Lupe Fiasco + Matthew Santos

DANCERS: Aimee Chase, Bailey Caves, Jennifer Pfaff Yonally

A SONG OF GREAT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPORT

CHOREOGRAPHY: Rich Ashworth | MUSIC: Janis Joplin

DANCERS: Sterling Harris, Heather Latakas, Isaac Stauffer

BEAT GOES ON

CHOREOGRAPHY: Mark Yonally | MUSIC: Sonny + Cher, Arranged by JC Brooks
DANCERS: Bailey Caves, Kirsten Uttich, Aimee Chase, JC Brooks

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

CHOREOGRAPHY: Mark Yonally | MUSIC: Queen
DANCERS: Mark Yonally, Jennifer Pfaff Yonally, Kirsten Uttich, Isaac Stauffer, Aimee Chase, Sterling Harris, Molly Smith, Heather Latakas, Bailey Caves, Zoe Lesser, Case Prime

BOWS

MEET CTT's COMPANY MEMBERS!



MARK
YONALLY



JENNIFER
YONALLY



KIRSTEN
UTTICH



AIMEE
CHASE



ISAAC
STAUFFER



STERLING
HARRIS



MOLLY
SMITH



BAILEY
CAVES



HEATHER
LATAKAS



CASE
PRIME



ALI
CALAMONERI



ZOE
LESSER



ALEXANDER
PASKER

MEET CTT'S COMPANY MEMBERS!

MARK YONALLY (Artistic Director, Dancer)

Mark is the Founder and Artistic Director of Chicago Tap Theatre. He is a sought after performer and dance educator who frequently teaches in France, Spain, Germany, Switzerland and all over America at such Festivals as the Maui Tap Experience. He is the creator of CTT's outreach program entitled "Feel the Rhythm", which brings tap dance to deaf and hard of hearing children. He is incredibly thankful for the many talented people who surround him, especially his lovely wife.

JENNIFER PFAFF YONALLY (Business Manager, Dancer)

Jennifer is a founding member of Chicago Tap Theatre. She currently holds a BS in Dance Management from Oklahoma City University and an MBA from North Park University. As a member of CTT, she has toured throughout America and Europe and has performed at Lollapalooza with the Polyphonic Spree. She is excited to have been an integral part of CTT's growth and looks forward to continuing to bring tap dance to Chicago and beyond!

KIRSTEN UTTICH (Rehearsal Director, Dancer)

This is Kirsten's tenth year as a performing dancer and fifth as Rehearsal Director. Favorite shows include We Will Tap You, Liaison, Changes, and Sweet Tap Chicago. She has choreographed several pieces for CTT over the years, recently "The Guys' Groove", "Wanna Be Cool" and "Superstar", and a trio of New Year's celebration dances for Tidings of Tap. Thanks for my family for never missing shows and simply being the best!

AIMEE CHASE (Dancer)

Aimee began dancing at the age of 4 at Miller's Dance Studio in Aurora, Colorado. She then studied Integrative Psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and was a member of the CU Express Dance Team for 2 years. After graduation, she suffered from what some might call a 'quarter-life crisis,' and decided to move to Chicago. Chicago has fulfilled many of her dreams, including dancing professionally alongside such exceptional talent! This is her 6th season in CTT, her 3rd as a company dancer. Thank you to my family and friends, both near and far, for their constant love and support!

MEET CTT'S COMPANY MEMBERS!

ISAAC STAUFFER (Dancer)

From Iowa, Isaac trained at Stairway to the Stars with Aerial Energy, where working with Tyler Haydon of Tap Dogs solidified his passion for tap. After studying at the University of Iowa and touring the country, he moved to Chicago. CTT's innovative and advanced rhythmic style intrigued him. The thrill of performing to live music with CTT's unique approach to concert tap brought him back time and time again as he begins his sixth season with the company!

STERLING HARRIS (Touring Apprentice)

Sterling, a Chicago native, fell in love with tap at the age of six and hasn't stopped dancing since. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, where he received his B.A. in Neuroscience. Throughout college, Sterling was a member of Tonik Tap and served as the Artistic Director for the 2017-2018 season. Sterling is grateful to perform with CTT for a second season and couldn't be happier to be able to continue doing what he loves.

MOLLY SMITH (Touring Apprentice, Company Manager)

Molly is so excited to be a part of CTT again this season! Molly is from Charlotte, NC and she trained at Dance Productions before attending Oklahoma City University to earn her BS in Dance Management. She is so grateful for the support of her family, friends, and teachers. She would also like to thank you, the audience, for supporting the arts!

BAILEY CAVES (Apprentice)

Bailey grew up dancing at two with Dancentre South in Woodstock, GA under the direction of Annie Day and Marcus Alford. She trained and performed tap, jazz, ballet, hip-hop, contemporary, African, and musical theatre. Bailey is a 2017 Magna Cum Laude graduate with a B.S. in Dance Management from Oklahoma City University and she's ecstatic to be with CTT for her 3rd season!

HEATHER LATAKAS (Apprentice)

Heather began dancing at Dance Academy of Antioch at the age of four. She trained and competed in a variety of styles, but always favored tap. Heather received her BPA in Dance Performance from Oklahoma City University. She is thankful to be a part of this production and CTT, and wants to thank her family and friends for all of their love and support!

MEET CTT'S COMPANY MEMBERS!

CASE PRIME (Apprentice)

From Lake George, NY, Case started tap dancing when he was four years old. At age 15, he became a member of the American Tap Dance Foundation's Tap City Youth Ensemble and got to study with amazing artists such as Michelle Dorrance and Brenda Bufalino. He is currently a freshman at Columbia College Chicago, where he's studying Music Composition and Audio Production, and is very excited to be an apprentice with Chicago Tap Theatre.

ALI CALAMONERI (Apprentice, Social Media Coordinator)

Ali is thrilled to be joining CTT this season! Ali is from Hillsborough, NJ, where she trained at Kathleen Academy of Dance before attending Muhlenberg College to earn her BA in Dance with concentrations in Performance, Choreography, and Education. Ali thanks her family, friends, and teachers for all of their support, and is especially grateful to be pursuing her passion in this incredible city.

ZOE LESSER (Apprentice)

Zoe is originally from Los Angeles and moved to Chicago this past June. She has performed at the San Pedro Arts Festival, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and Zipper Hall and is a former member of the Colbum Tap Ensemble. She graduated from Skidmore College this past year with degrees in Theater and English. She currently works at Steppenwolf Theatre Company as the LookOut Producing Apprentice.

ALEXANDER PASKER (Apprentice)

Alexander was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, where he studied dance under Brenda Paulsen. In 2019, he graduated from Hope College with a B.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography. While at Hope College, he trained and performed under Sharon Wong, Jason Janas, Steven Iannacone, and Mark Yonally. Alexander now lives and trains in Chicago where he is excited to spend his first year with Chicago Tap Theatre!

MEET THE BAND!

JC BROOKS (Music Director, Vocals)

JC is a musician and actor whose main pastime is writing love letters to the Chicago arts scene. He makes a unique brand of "indiesoul" with some of Chicago's best musicians in an eponymous project (formerly The Uptown Sound). Sometimes you can catch him with electro-r&b duo, the K.i.D., or as a solo singer/poet. He's played several Chicago venues from sweaty dance parties at the gritty Door#3 to laidback cabaret nights at City Winery to a sold out House of Blues. Beyond Chicago, he's been tapped for a week-long residency in Brooklyn at a one-of-a-kind multimedia salon called Nightcap Riot and also to play in Milan for its mayor's reception dinner for their new sister city, Chicago. Find out where you can catch him: www.JCBrooksBand.com

EVAN PINTER (Guitar)

Find out more at www.evanpinter.com

EVAN LEVINE (Bass)

Find out more at www.evanlevinmusic.com

JEREMY TROMBURG (Keys, Digital Drums)

Find out more at soundcloud.com/jeremy-tromburg

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**Chicago Tap Theatre has exclusive representation by
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CREDITS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Artistic Director, Mark Yonally
Business Manager, Jennifer Pfaff Yonally
Marketing Director, Leah Koch
Fundraising Coordinator, Sarah Owens
Company Manager, Molly Smith
Social Marketing Coordinator, Ali Calamoneri
Interns, Allie Barrett and Emily Schmukal
Public Relations, SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations
Group Sales, Group Theater Tix

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Artistic Director, Mark Yonally
Rehearsal Director, Kirsten Uttich
Music Director, Jayson Brooks
Company Manager, Molly Smith
Stage Manager, Sarah Lackner
Lighting Design & Stream Engineer, Dustin L. Derry
Audio Engineer, Andrew Stratton
Costume Design, Emma Cullimore / coordination by Molly Smith
Photography, David Harmantas, Josh Hawkins, Kristie Kahns, Phil Solomonson
Program Director, Rob Smith with help from Joseph Gould + Michael Taylor
Floor Manager, Mike Weaver
Tap Flooring, Tristan Bruns with Tapman Productions
Filming Equipment, Kevin Larson

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SUPPORT CTT!



Chicago Tap Theatre is a not-for-profit professional tap dance company based in Andersonville. CTT's mission is to preserve the American artform of tap dance by presenting innovative performances and making tap dance education accessible to all.

Your support keeps us tapping:
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