

## **River North Dance Company to present 'Mystical, Sexy' Jazz Dance from Chicago at 8 p.m. Oct. 30 at UCSD**

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RIVER NORTH DANCE COMPANY TO PRESENT 'MYSTICAL, SEXY' JAZZ DANCE FROM CHICAGO AT 8 P.M. OCT. 30 AT UCSD

"Jazz dance never looked so ... funny, mystical, poignant, inexplicable, sexy," writes the Arizona Republic of Chicago's River North Dance Company, a colorful ensemble known for its inventive, playful, gutsy style.

River North Dance Company will perform Jazz Dance from Chicago at 8 p.m. Oct. 30 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

"River North Dance Company blew into the Valley from Chicago," the Arizona Republic continues. "(It) looked fresh, hot, and eager to please," and quickly demonstrated "the complexity and emotional range that is possible within jazz dance."

The 14-person ensemble, under the artistic direction of Sherry Zunker Dow and Frank Chaves, will perform an eclectic repertoire of 10 pieces at UCSD set to some of the most recognizable and memorable jazz music of the century.

"Healthy, well-tuned bodies dancing with flash and flair Ahh ," writes the Green Bay Press-Gazette, "strong dance ensembles are so invigorating. River North Dance Company fits the mold."

River North Dance Company was founded in 1989 by a number of Chicago's well-known dancers and choreographers to cultivate and promote Chicago's jazz talent. In 1993, the company was the subject of an Emmy award-winning television special, Reality of a Dreamer, (Outstanding Entertainment Special) which premiered in Chicago and has been aired in 320 cities across the country. The special concludes with a presentation of the group's signature piece, Dow's Reality of a Dreamer, which has been seen by more than a million viewers across the country.

From a "local" dance group initiated to preserve and promote Chicago jazz dance, River North Dance Company has grown in popularity to become one of the country's most dynamic, professional companies with a nationwide touring schedule soon to become international.

Chicago dance critics describe Dow as "a sophisticated choreographer" with a "passion for dance" and a "clear artistic vision." Of her Reality of a Dreamer, the Chicago Tribune writes: "considered River North's signature piece the mesmerizingly moody Reality of a Dreamer ... showcased the feline moves, raw sensuality and jaw-dropping agility of the ensemble."

Dow has choreographed eight numbers for River North Dance Company, as has Chaves, and each have choreographed for other musical productions and companies, danced professionally as principals and teach throughout the United States.

Of Chaves' Charanga, the Chicago Tribune writes: "A scarlet-colored Latin sizzler, (Charanga) packs a lifetime of breathless spins into its quick five minutes. Searing with a tango-like, romantic fizz, it's both a crackling showpiece and exercise in supreme ballroom discipline."

River North Dance Company is never far from popular music or dance styles, but its performances are spiced with the innovation and inspiration of Dow, Chaves, other Chicago choreographers commissioned to create works for the group, and the dancers themselves.

"River North isn't a deep-think outfit," writes the Green Bay Press-Gazette. "That's for other troupes. This group leaves 'em smiling."

"This company's core commitment remains clear," writes the Philadelphia Inquirer, "mining the mother lode tradition of jazz dance, with its high kicks, sexy interplay and sentiment."

Tickets for River North Dance Company are \$20 general admission, \$18 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 5348497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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