

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE DANCE CENTER OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO WELCOMES ALL AGES
TO FAMILYDANCE MATINEE SERIES—FREE FOR CHILDREN**

CHICAGO—Introducing families to the world of contemporary dance, [The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago](#) presents its 13th season of [FamilyDance Matinees](#), combining performances for all ages and a chance to move with professionals in the dance world.

The 2011–12 season of FamilyDance features Asia’s leading contemporary dance company Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan (October 29); a Merce Cunningham MinEvent, with a workshop led by Company Manager Kevin Taylor and a performance by Dance Center students (November 19); Chicago choreographer Molly Shanahan and her company Mad Shak (February 25); a collection of Chicago companies: The Space/Movement Project, Rachel Damon/Synapse Arts and Erica Mott (March 10); and Ballet Hispanico (March 24), led by former Chicago choreographer Eduardo Vilaro. The Dance Center also will present regular evening performances by all participating artists during the same weeks as their FamilyDance Matinees.

Each FamilyDance Matinee consists of a special 45-minute family-oriented performance preceded by a free workshop that encourages parents and children to move with the artists.

“Since its inception, FamilyDance has become a very popular event, introducing new people to The Dance Center and new artists to our loyal FamilyDance audience members,” said Dance Center Executive Director Phil Reynolds, “It’s an opportunity to show kids and parents that dance is fun by letting them get up and move with the artists. Once they’ve tried it themselves, they’ll enjoy watching it even more. We hope we’re nurturing the development of the next generation of dancers and audience members as well.”

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, named “Chicago’s Best Dance Theatre” by *Chicago* magazine and “Best Dance Venue” by the *Chicago Reader*, is the city’s leading presenter of contemporary dance, showcasing artists of regional, national and international significance. Programs of The Dance Center are supported, in part, Alphawood Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, Sara Lee Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Arts Midwest, Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Irving Harris Foundation and New England Foundation for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council. Special thanks to Friends of The Dance Center.

Each FamilyDance Matinee begins at 3 p.m.; the free movement workshop begins at 2:15 p.m. Admission is free for children 12 and younger, \$15 for adults. The theatre is accessible to people with disabilities. All programming is subject to change. Call 312-369-8330 or visit colum.edu/dancecenter.

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