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PS21 Continues Powerhouse Summer of Dance with RUBBERBANDance Group

Contemporary Dance And Dynamic Street Style Combine For Something That Cracks Through The Air

[CHATHAM, NY] - PS/21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century is thrilled to welcome the cutting-edge, critically acclaimed RUBBERBANDance Group (RBDG) to the Tent Friday, and Saturday, August 20 and 21 at 8:00pm. Choreographer Victor Quijada has created an exciting fusion of hip-hop, ballet and modern dance by taking the energy and virtuosity of street dancing and marrying it to the formal structures of concert dance.

“It’s not an aerobic show. It’s not a hip hop show. It’s like the classical ballet world and the breakdancing world had a child,” said Quijada. The product is its own being but you can see the resemblance of the parents. “We’ve taken the length, extensions, and suspension of contemporary dance and combined it with the rough, explosive, dynamic street dances for something that cracks through the air.”

For the August performance at PS/21, Montreal-based RBDG will perform “Loan Sharking,” an abbreviated version of “Punto Ciego”, a multi-layered composition with an expansive set, audio and video. “We’ve plucked out the meat, the dance, to give a sampler of some of the directions and influences we’ve explored over the eight years that I’ve had the company,” Quijada said. “It’s like a time capsule for me.”

The first half of the program includes three pieces created between 2002-2008 for various special events and commissions by hip-hop and contemporary companies in Canada, Europe and the United States. The eclectic classical and jazz selections include Stravinsky’s “Firebird Ballet,” Vivaldi’s “Cello Concerto,” and Brubeck’s “Take Five.”

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The second act is an abbreviated version of “Punto Ciego”, Victor Quijada’s most recent work. “For the music in Act 2, I worked with Jasper Gahunia, a master turntable champion and classically trained composer. He sampled classical music using old DJ tricks - tools not typically used in the classical world,” said Quijada. “What he came up with is beautiful and evocative - a world beyond what I thought was possible.”

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RUBBERBANDance will perform Friday and Saturday, August 20 and 21 at 8:00pm.

Admission is \$35 general admission and \$30 for PS/21 members. For information or to order tickets, please call 518.392.6121 or visit ps21chatham.org. Tickets will also be available at the door until the show sells out.

Quijada grew up in L.A.’s hip hop culture, breakdancing by the age of eight, and earning the nickname “Rubberband.” After completing formal dance training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, he spent two years working with post modern dance pioneer Rudy Perez, and three years with Twyla Tharp Dance. In 2000, Victor moved to Montréal to join Les Grands Ballet Canadiens and two years later formed RUBBERBANDance Group. His work with RBDG explores humanity and human relationships through a unique fusion of these dance and theatre styles. “I take what is good about the classic technique and combine it with the contemporary,” said Quijada.

For a visual sample of RubberbandDance, visit their You Tube Channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/RUBBERBANDance>, and website <http://www.rubberbandance.com>. “There you can see what kind of energy we’re bringing to the dance.” Quijada said. “You can see the influences and when and where it comes from.”

PS/21 is a not-for-profit organization located at 2980 Route 66 in Chatham, New York. PS/21 is dedicated to the performing arts and serving a diverse community with concerts, programs and residencies by professional artists and ensembles, youth and children’s programming and cultural education opportunities for all ages.

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