



PR Contact:
Luke Bandoske
lukebandoske@gmail.com
313.205.8925

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Photos available for download here.

HOT CROWD ANNOUNCES COMPANY'S INCORPORATION PLUS UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

***CITY OF BIG SHOULDERS, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 7PM* ATHENAEUM THEATRE**

(February 12, 2018) Hot Crowd, Chicago's newest contemporary dance company, announces official incorporation date, November 27, 2017. In addition, Hot Crowd highlights two upcoming opportunities to see the company perform, *City of Big Shoulders* and the 2018 Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival (RADfest).

City of Big Shoulders, Hot Crowd's first official public performance, will feature the company's seven-dancer ensemble and is inspired by the city of its inception Chicago, IL. Taking place on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 7pm at the Athenaeum Theatre, *City of Big Shoulders* will be the first evening-length performance choreographed by Founder Emily Ashburn in collaboration with company dancers.

"Hot Crowd is made up of individuals that find an unparalleled joy through dance. We search for valuable movement that anyone can appreciate and translate it to a concert format," Founder and Artistic Director Emily Ashburn said. "*City of Big Shoulders* is the daily Chicago experience that the average person sees, touches, and smells told through dance. From humorous CTA interactions to the unsettling rise in violence, *City of Big Shoulders* delivers a story that we all know and can relate to in a more interesting way."

Prior to Hot Crowd's first produced performance at the Athenaeum, the company can be seen at the 2018 RAD fest on Saturday, March 10 at 9pm at the Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center in Kalamazoo, MI. This will be sixth time performing in a dance festival.

About Hot Crowd

Hot Crowd formed in January 2017 when a group of friends who share a passion for dance joined together in Chicago, Illinois. A company of seven dancers, Hot Crowd believes that movement is fundamental to life and that all movement deserves notice and appreciation. Hot Crowd's mission is to stimulate and inspire dancers and non-dancers alike through innovative movement, community interaction, and accessibility to strengthen and spread the art of dance in the Chicagoland area and beyond. Hot Crowd is currently pursuing its not-for-profit government certification. *If you can move, you can dance, and you should dance.*

About Founder, Artistic Director, and Board President, Emily Ashburn



Originally from Edwardsville, Illinois, Emily attended daily dance classes at her hometown studio throughout elementary, middle, and high school. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance from Western Michigan University in May 2015. While at Western, Emily performed works by Ohad Naharin, Loie Fuller, and worked with artists such as Gabrielle Lamb, Lauren Thompson Hall, Monique Haley, Jackie Nowicki, KT Nelson, and faculty member Carolyn Pavlik in their processes of creating original works performed in WMU's Winter Gala Concert. In addition to performance, Emily enjoys choreography. Her solo, *Corey's Promise*, was accepted and performed at the 2014 regional American College Dance Association conference. She also received the Shawn Coyle Hunnicutt Scholarship for Excellence in Choreography. Emily was awarded a grant by The Ramon Zupko Enrichment Fund to produce an original ballet, *"Who Killed Mr. Mason?"*. She was named the WMU Department of Dance 2015 Presidential Scholar. After graduating, Emily has recently made the move to Chicago to pursue a career in modern dance performance and explore all that the Chicago dance community has to offer. She has danced with multiple Chicago-based companies, freelance projects, and is currently focusing on the success of Hot Crowd.

[Learn about the Hot Crowd dancers.](#)

[Learn more about the Hot Crowd Board of Directors.](#)