

Roosevelt opens Wabash Studios, Dance Chance moves and more dance news



Next

Luis Perez directs Roosevelt University's music theatre program, which recently added a dance concentration.

Earlier today Roosevelt University celebrated the opening of a new South Loop dance facility, [Wabash Studios](#). It's the latest project in the school's ramped-up focus on dance. Last fall, the Theatre Conservatory introduced a [dance concentration](#) for musical theater majors. The new students will make ample use of the dance studios, which include an action-on-camera studio and smart classroom (apparently a reference to smart technology, not student aptitude). The 13,000-square-foot space is located at 218 S Wabash Ave and is equipped for ballet, jazz, modern dance, circus skills and movement classes.

Speaking of circus skills, the [Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival](#)—a celebration of the more artist-driven, emotional and experimental circus of today (not the clowns-on-unicycles-juggling-batons kind)—kicks off Thursday, January 9, and continues through Sunday, January 12, at the Athenaeum Theatre and Links Hall at Constellation. See the [website](#) for exact times and programs.

DCASE gets edgier, performance-wise, with a new series [OnEdge](#), kicking off January 13. Spotting experimental dance and theater via free performances and workshops, it's "on the edge" both thematically—probing intensely personal themes such as identity, family and heartbreak—and stylistically, featuring genre-defying work from emerging and mid-career artists. On January 13 and 14 at the Cultural Center, George Lewis Jr. and Lewis Forever present their black-and-white film *SISTER*, followed on January 18 by a performance of *Heavens What Have I Done* starring New York choreographer Miguel Gutierrez. The [website](#) offers a complete schedule.

Originally held at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, [Dance Chance](#) is moving to the Lou Conte Dance Studio, effective January 31. Styled after an open mic, this unique monthly program, run by DanceWorks Chicago, gives emerging choreographers an opportunity to present new work or work in progress, then field audience questions and feedback. Three choreographers are chosen per month through a lottery. They get a *chance*, see.