

WORLD PREMIERE of *Tesseract of Time*
New collaboration by choreographer Jessica Lang and architect
Steven Holl

A First Time Partnership Blending Dance and Architecture, Commissioned by the Chicago Architecture Biennial



Steven Holl and Jessica Lang; credit Milan Misko

CHICAGO (October 21, 2015) **The Harris Theater for Music and Dance** is proud to present the **world premiere** of ***Tesseract of Time***; a brand new collaboration between renowned choreographer **Jessica Lang** and celebrated architect **Steven Holl**, performed by **Jessica Lang Dance** and commissioned by the **Chicago Architecture Biennial**. After being called a “can’t miss” performance by the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Chicago Magazine*, and many other publications, this is a premier highlight of the Fall dance season, arriving at the Harris on **Friday, November 6 at 8PM**. Full program is below.

Tesseract of Time relates to the four types of architecture: Under, In, On, and Over. *Tesseract of Time* demonstrates how the two worlds of architecture and dance merge with respect to time; architecture is one of the arts’ longest in duration, while the realization of a dance piece can be a quick process where the work disappears as the performance of it unfolds. In this work, one can imagine the four stages like the four seasons which are compressed into just twenty minutes. This compressed ratio would render an average human life as four years.

"The body moving through space in time is a central experience of both architecture and dance," said Steven Holl. "To collaborate on a 'Dance for Architecture' with Jessica Lang is an inspiring chance to experiment with the merging of the two arts, focusing on time, form, light, and movement."

"Collaboration is an essential part of making great art," said Jessica Lang. "Having the opportunity to work intensely with architect Steven Holl on *Tesseract*s of Time has been a valuable process that will inform my work well beyond the creation of this piece. Together, we have pushed the boundaries of dance and architecture and the result will awaken the human imagination."

Jessica Lang has been hailed as "a master of visual composition" by *Dance Magazine* and is known for her striking design elements, and emotionally engaging contemporary works. Lang is a New York City Center Fellow for 2015 and the recipient of the prestigious 2014 Bessie Award. Her company, Jessica Lang Dance, was created through Lang's receipt of a Joyce Theater Artist Residency and has made rapid success performing at renowned venues and festivals around the country including Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, the Joyce Theater and the Winspear Opera House in Dallas, TX.

Considered one of America's most important architects, **Steven Holl** is recognized for his ability to blend space and light with great contextual sensitivity and to utilize the unique qualities of each project to create a concept-driven design. He specializes in seamlessly integrating new projects into contexts with particular cultural and historic importance. Holl has been honored with Japan's Praemium Imperiale (2014), the AIA Gold Medal (2012), Royal Institute of British Architects Fellowship (2002) and the Grand Medaille d'Or (2001) among many other awards and is a tenured Professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture and Planning. Steven Holl Architects have realized cultural, civic, university, and residential projects in the U.S. and around the world, most recently the Reid Building at The Glasgow School of Art in Glasgow, United Kingdom (2014), and currently the Expansion Project for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and the new wing for the Mumbai City Museum.

"Seeing the creative process behind *Tesseract*s of Time and working with Jessica and Steven, and the Chicago Architecture Biennial, to bring it to life has been an especially rewarding mission," said Harris Theater President and Managing Director Michael Tiknis. "The natural collaboration between these two visionaries was magic, and the work is so rich as a result. Presenting the world premiere of *Tesseract*s of Time will be the Harris' distinct honor. With the Joyce Theater Foundation and Houston Society for the Performing Arts as co-commissioners alongside the Harris, this collaboration will continue to make its mark across the country."



*Tesseract*s of Time set design; credit Milan Misko



*Tesseract*s of Time dancers Kana Kimura and Randy Castillo

The architecture used in the dance was developed through a research project called 'Explorations of IN.' This project started June 2014 at Steven Holl Architects and explores questions of architectural language. It aims to re-value the Art of Architecture.

Lang and Holl carefully chose music that has influenced them both in their individual work, and for its architectonic qualities, studied at Columbia University's design program *The Architectonics of Music*, led by Steven Holl and Dimitra Tsachrelia. This "dance for architecture" is set to music by David Lang, Morton Feldman, John Cage, Iannis Xenakis and Arvo Pärt.

Full program:

The Calling (excerpt from Splendid Isolation II)

Droplet (excerpt from i.n.k.)

Thousand Yard Stare (preview)

Tesseract of Time (World Premiere)

Single tickets now available at www.HarrisTheaterChicago.org or by calling the Harris Theater Box Office at 312.334.7777.

Jessica Lang Dance will also be performing on Thursday, November 5 as part of the Harris Theater's new **MIX at SIX** series. *MIX at SIX* is the Harris' first ever happy hour performance series featuring six after work performances throughout the season. Beginning at 6PM, these performances see renowned artists from around the world performing fast-paced, one-hour performances after work. Enjoy signature cocktails from Harris Theater and food from Chicago's most in demand food trucks, available for purchase on Lower Randolph outside the lobbies.

MIX at SIX subscriptions for the full series are available now for \$50; single tickets are \$10. To purchase tickets, please visit www.HarrisTheaterChicago.org or call 312.334.7777.

••• All programs, prices, and dates are subject to change •••

Tesseract of Time

A collaboration between Steven Holl, Jessica Lang, and Jessica Lang Dance

Chicago Architecture Biennial: Lead Commissioner

John and Caroline Ballantine, Sandra and Jack Guthman, Michael and Sharon Tiknis through the *Imagine* campaign, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Society for the Performing Arts, and The Joyce Theater Foundation: Commissioning Partners

This project was made possible with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Charles & Deborah Adelman, and the Dau Family Foundation

Sponsorship

This performance is made possible with support from Abby McCormick O'Neil and D. Carroll Joynes, Lead Sponsors.

The Harris Theater is proud to have the support of The Northern Trust Company as its 2015–2016 season sponsor. United Airlines is the Official and Exclusive Airline of the Harris Theater. Hyatt Regency Chicago is the Harris Theater's season hotel partner. The Theater also gratefully acknowledges the Irving Harris Foundation for its leadership support of the Presenting Fund. The Harris Theater is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council Agency. All performances take place on The Elizabeth Morse Genius Stage at the Harris Theater.

About Harris Theater for Music and Dance

The Harris Theater's mission is to partner with an array of Chicago's emerging and midsize performing arts organizations to help them build infrastructure and achieve artistic growth and long-term organizational sustainability. Opened on

November 8, 2003, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance was the first multi-use performing arts venue to be built in the Chicago downtown area since 1929. Today the Theater continues to host the most diverse offerings of any venue in Chicago, featuring the city's world-renowned music and dance institutions and the *Harris Theater Presents* series of acclaimed national and international artists and ensembles.

Imagine: The Campaign for Harris Theater, is a \$38.8M comprehensive fundraising effort supporting the Theater's multifaceted mission. The campaign ensures the continued growth and artistic development of the Harris Theater over the next 10 years.

The *Imagine* campaign is led by four transformational gifts: from The Irving Harris Foundation, Joan W. Harris; Alexandra and John Nichols; Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation, Abby McCormick O'Neil and D. Carroll Joynes; Caryn and King Harris, The Harris Family Foundation. Additional leadership gifts supporting programmatic and capital projects have been generously funded by The Crown Family, Jay Franke and David Herro, Jack and Sandra Guthman, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Neisser Family Foundation, The Northern Trust Company, Christine and Glenn Kelly, Laura and Ricardo Rosenkranz, and Marilyn and David J. Vitale.

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust are the lead underwriters of fundraising for *Imagine: The Campaign for Harris Theater*.

The Harris Theater maintains a commitment to engaging Chicago residents of all ages and communities. Programs like the popular *Eat to the Beat* and *Exelon Family Series* advance access to, and understanding of, the performing arts. The Theater partners with health and human service agencies, K-12 schools, and community arts organizations, providing more than 8,800 underwritten performance tickets through the *Access Tickets Program* since 2009. The Theater also connects gifted young artists and students to presented artists through master classes, artist talks, and other enrichment activities.

To learn more about the Harris Theater, please visit HarrisTheaterChicago.org. Call the Box Office at 312.334.7777 to request a brochure or additional information.

The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago's state-of-the art 1,525-seat performance venue, can also be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

•••