

LinksHall3030

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

For Immediate Release 9/7/10
Hi-res digital images available on request

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Links Hall presents a nude ode to Walt Whitman with Leaves of Grass, October 1, 2010.

Chicago, IL- Once described as obscene for its overt sexuality, Walt Whitman's collection of poems in *Leaves of Grass* takes on new life through a naked, dance-inspired adaptation at **Links Hall**, Friday, October 1 2010. Conceived and directed by Jeremy Bloom, a Northwestern University alumnus and currently a Drama League Directors Fellow based in New York, *Leaves of Grass* features a diverse, unclothed cast of over 20 performers rhythmically chanting Whitman's most groundbreaking poems, including "Song of Myself," "I Sing the Body Electric," and "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking."

*"Each passage of Whitman's text highlights the human body and our performance simply uses those words as an instruction manual," said Bloom. "The fact that it is the brink of fall, as the seasons are changing, makes it feel like the appropriate time to perform *Leaves of Grass*."*

Mary Zimmerman described it as, "what Walt Whitman has been waiting in his grave for."

Bloom presents *Leaves of Grass*, October 1, 2010 featuring two performances in one night at **7:30pm** and a late-night showing at **10pm** at Links Hall 3435 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, IL. 60657. Tickets are \$15 General Admission (\$10 Student/senior discount) For more information call **773.281.0824**, or purchase tickets online at www.LinksHall.org.

A protégé of Tony Award winner Mary Zimmerman (*Metamorphoses*), Bloom directs with a creative use of staging. The actors are warmly lit against the white walls of Links Hall while a simple lectern reading evolves into an elaborate and ceremonious procession.

Click here for clips from production: [video collage \(YOUTUBE VIDEO LEAVES OF GRASS\)](#)

Experience 30 Hours of Continuous Performance. Celebrate 30 Years of Performance Arts Innovation.

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~ Bios~

JEREMY BLOOM (Director) Jeremy Bloom is a Drama League Directors Fellow and has directed at The Flea, the cell, The Fringe, Walkerspace, NYU Grad, The Midtown Festival (award winner), and The Planet Connections Festivity (award winner). A resident artist at the cell and Evenstar Films, his original works include Peter~Wendy, The Wendy Complex, Leaves of Grass (Nude), and La Boheme (Spoken). Assistant credits include the Metropolitan Opera, Berkeley Rep, The Goodman and Broadway for Mary Zimmerman, Liz Swados, Jim Simpson, Will Patton and Lee Breuer. Jeremy is an alumnus of Northwestern University.

NIKKI ZALESKI (Choreographer) Nikki Zaleski is a graduate of Northwestern University with degrees in Gender Studies and Performance Studies. She teaches movement and choreography with Urban Gateways, Kids Can Dance, Ag47 Arts Collective, and the Actor's Training Center. Most recently, she choreographed for Redmoon Theater's Dramagirls (Chicago) and devised movement for Sojourn Theater's On the Table (Portland, OR).

~ PERFORMANCE DETAILS~

Leaves of Grass, a Nude Choral Reading

Written by Walt Whitman

Conceived and Directed by Jeremy Bloom and Choreographed by Nikki Zaleski
Produced by **Links Hall**

For tickets and more information call **773.281.0824** or visit **www.LinkshHall.org**.

Links Hall is located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Second Floor, Chicago, IL 60657—convenient to the BROWN & RED line stop at Belmont and RED line Addison stop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. For more information call **773.281.0824** or visit **www.linkshhall.org**

For tickets and more information the public may call **773.281.0824** or visit **www.LinkshHall.org**.

Links Hall is Chicago's Center for Independent Dance and Performing Arts.

Links Hall encourages artistic innovation and public engagement by maintaining a facility and providing flexible programming for the research, development and presentation of new work in the performing arts.

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