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ANNOUNCING HIGH CONCEPT LABS' SPRING 2015 SPONSORED ARTISTS

Celebrating five years of hcl's Sponsored Artist Program and inauguration of its 2015 honorees

CHICAGO, IL — High Concept Labs (hcl) today announces the 2015 Spring lineup of its Sponsored Artist Program. Ten artists and collaboratives will develop, rehearse and perform new work for Chicago audiences this season. In conjunction with rehearsal and performance space, hcl provides artists with administrative, marketing, production and development assistance. 2015 marks the fifth anniversary of the Sponsored Artist Program.

hcl also announces today that three initiatives—THE ERA Chicago footwork dance crew, the Chicago Queer Arts Mentorship Program (CQAMP), and OTH-ERS: an artist documentation initiative—will participate in its inaugural Institutional Incubation Program. The Institutional Incubation Program exists to address the critical developmental, infrastructure and artistic needs of nascent art groups that often go unmet, and to support the growth of these promising initiatives.

This season's Sponsored Artists are a diverse group of emerging and established artists working across a range of disciplines, from film and theater to music and game design. Sponsored Artists working in dance this season are supported through a Community Partnership with the Chicago Dancemakers Forum (CDF).

The Spring 2015 Sponsored Artists and their projects are as follows:

1. David Safran and Emma Morris (musical theater): *The Hotwife of Hyde Park* (<http://bit.ly/19cEFfD>)
2. Mark Booth (sound/composition): *THE SEA IS REPRESENTED BY AN IRREGULAR SHAPE* (<http://bit.ly/1KQvEok>)
3. Alexander Stewart (film): *String Beams* (<http://bit.ly/19cEUaC>)
4. Vaudeo Motion (sound/dance) *Vaudeo Motion* (<http://bit.ly/1yr8dLe>)
5. Mitsu Salmon (performance): *Tsuchi* (<http://bit.ly/1zaZaPT>)
6. Krissy Vanderwarker (game design): *Ghost Army* (<http://bit.ly/1E4W17R>)
7. dropshift dance and Luke Gullickson (music/dance), *Open* (<http://bit.ly/1MgRsgp>, <http://bit.ly/1Ag0ib5>)

8. Ahmad Simmons (CDF dance partnership): *Them* (<http://bit.ly/19cFGnZ>)
9. J'Sun Howard (CDF dance partnership): *When I Consider How My Light Is Spent* (<http://bit.ly/16Z0sFP>)
10. Erica Mott and Ryan Ingebritsen (CDF dance partnership): [project to be announced] (<http://bit.ly/1F2EnVO>)

This is the fifth year of the Sponsored Artist Program, which has supported more than 200 artists and groups with 20,000 hours of donated space and professional support, with a total economic impact of over \$400,000. For two seasons each year, artists are selected by hcl's artistic advisory board to incubate, workshop, perform or exhibit new work. With a vibrant cycle of programs and process-support, hcl grows community alongside culture and fosters new audiences for the arts.

The Spring 2015 inaugural Institutional Incubation Program initiatives are as follows:

1. The ERA: Chicago Footwork Dance Crew (<http://bit.ly/1DIRnE3>)
2. Chicago Queer Arts Mentorship Program (CQAMP): Joseph Varisco (Director, JRV Majesty) (<http://bit.ly/1AsiE78>)
3. OTH-ERS: Matt Mehlan (Artist Documentation Initiative) (<http://bit.ly/1EhfXUS>)

Additional information on both our Sponsored Artists and Institutional Incubation projects are forthcoming. Dates and times of public programs to be announced.

About High Concept Labs: High Concept Labs is an Illinois not-for-profit arts service organization dedicated to supporting working artists and engaging the Chicago community with arts and culture. Partnering with artists at every step of the creative process, hcl offers high-quality custom support services through its Sponsored Artist and Institution Incubation Programs. hcl also curates and hosts artist showcases, presents special community events, and facilitates educational arts partnerships. With a vibrant cycle of programs and process-support, High Concept Labs grows community alongside culture and fosters new audiences for the arts.

hcl is supported in part by the generosity of MANA Contemporary Chicago, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Chicago Dancemakers Forum, and individual donors.

website: highconceptlabs.org

calendar of events: highconceptlabs.org/calendar/

facebook: [facebook.com/highconceptlabs](https://www.facebook.com/highconceptlabs)

hcl is based at Mana Contemporary Chicago in the Pilsen neighborhood, at 2233 S. Throop St. Chicago, Illinois 60608.

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