

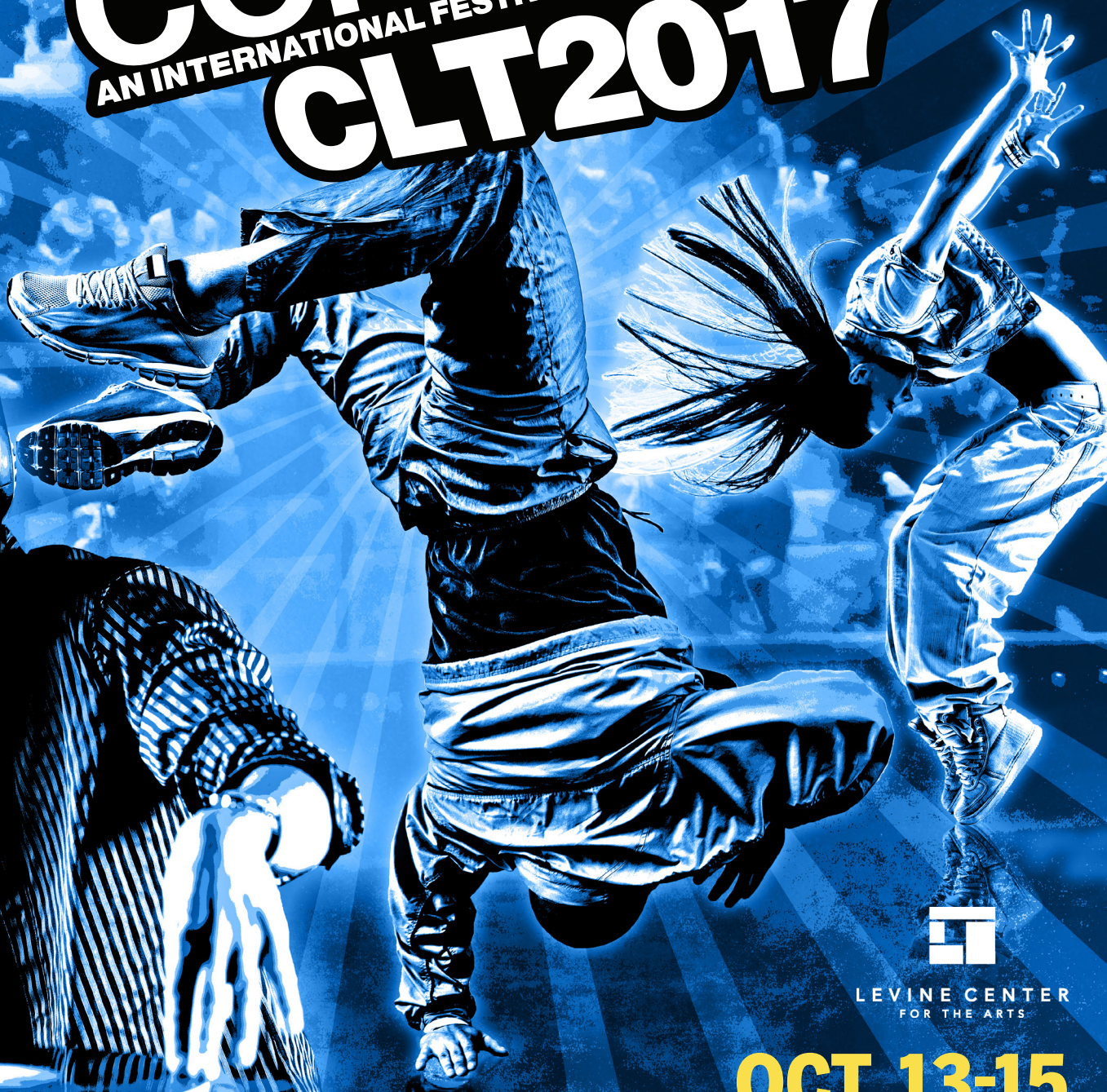
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HIP HOP DANCE THEATRE

A Sadler's Wells Project

breakin convention

AN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HIP HOP DANCE THEATRE

CLT2017



LEVINE CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

OCT. 13-15

BlumenthalArts.org/Breakin2017

breakin' convention '17

PEACE 'N' LOVE EVERYONE!

Hey Queen City!

It's great to be back! After witnessing last year's amazing work from local Charlotte dance crews, graffiti writers, DJs and emcees, the bar has been set high for *Breakin' Convention* CLT2017!

Blumenthal Performing Art's commitment to the *Breakin' Convention* blueprint is a pleasure to behold, and we look forward to getting busy again this weekend!

This year we have an incredible lineup featuring amazing B-Boys from South Africa, one of the U.K.'s top street dance groups, a living legend and master popper from France, a multidisciplinary hip hop dance

group from France, an original powerful female collective from Los Angeles, and an allstar group of dancers with over 30 years experience in popping, locking and breaking representing worldwide!



Immerse yourself in the creativity and inclusivity of hip-hop culture.

Have you ever painted with a spray can? Would you like to learn a six-step? Get involved in the various workshops available!

With the greatest hip-hop artists from around the world and around the corner, let's start *Breakin' Convention*.

Peace ...

Jonzi D
Artistic Director



Time

Place

5-7:15 PM Levine Avenue of the Arts

6-7:15 PM Knight Theater & Bechtler Museum Main Lobbies
Knight Theater Upper Lobby

7:30-8:30 PM Knight Theater Main Stage

8:30-9:15 PM Levine Avenue of the Arts
Knight Theater & Bechtler Museum Main Lobbies
Knight Theater Upper Lobby

9:15-10:15 PM Knight Theater Main Stage

Many thanks to our
Breakin' Convention sponsors!



Friday, Oct. 13

Activity

Graffiti Jam:

Live aerosol art and the chance to try it yourself!

Food Trucks:

Several Queen City favorites to choose from!

Family-Friendly Activities:

Several activities and games to play!

Dancing on the Levine Ave. of the Arts Stage:

Live entertainment on the Arts stage!

Saturday, Oct. 14

Activity

Graffiti Jam:

Live aerosol art and the chance to try it yourself!

Food Trucks:

Several Queen City favorites to choose from!

Family-Friendly Activities:

Several activities and games to play!

Dancing on the Levine Ave. of the Arts Stage:

Live entertainment on the Arts stage!

Preshow Activities in the Knight Theater & Bechtler Lobbies

DJ Shogun:

Listen to great music or join in the dance cypher.

Graffiti Zone:

Learn to tag with a local graffiti artist.

DJ Steel Wheel:

Listen to great music or join in the dance cypher.

Graffiti Zone:

Learn to tag with a local graffiti artist.

Main Show Onstage

Breakers for Life (N.C./Georgia)

Animatrixx (N.C.)

Rot Not, Want Not (N.C.)

Femme Fatale (Los Angeles)

Soweto Skeleton Movers (South Africa)

Breakers for Life (N.C./Georgia)

Committed (N.C.)

Queen City Bittys (N.C.)

Femme Fatale (Los Angeles)

Soweto Skeleton Movers (South Africa)

Intermission Activities

DJ, Dancing, Food Trucks:

Several Queen City favorites to choose from along with DJs and Dancing!

DJ Shogun:

Listen to great music or join in the dance cypher.

Graffiti Zone:

Learn to tag with a local graffiti artist.

DJ, Dancing, Food Trucks:

Several Queen City favorites to choose from along with DJs and Dancing!

DJ Steel Wheel:

Listen to great music or join in the dance cypher.

Graffiti Zone:

Learn to tag with a local graffiti artist.

Main Show Onstage

► **CrayzeeCollective (N.C.)**

► **Protocol (U.K.)**

► **Salah (France)**

► **Yeah Yellow (France)**

► **O.G. All Stars (U.S.)**

► **Protocol (U.K.)**

► **Salah (France)**

► **Yeah Yellow (France)**

Lineup subject to change. All timings are approximate. Preshow and intermission activities are free.

Stage Artists

Animatrixx (N.C.) *A Dancers Love*



Performer and Choreography: Animatrixx

Have you ever danced so much you lost the one you care about? Have you ever committed more time to practicing your art than to the one who wants to spend time with you? With robotic finesse, Animatrixx expresses his feelings of regret and loss.

Animatrixx has been dancing since he was 13, stepping up to a more serious level at age 18. Born in Trinidad, his style is a fusion of popping, waving, strobing and animation. Self-taught, his creatively different style is influenced by well-known street dancers and entertainers.

Breakers for Life (N.C./Georgia) *Enter The B-Boy*



Performers (Breakers For Life): B-Girl Lucy, B-Girl Majesty, C Walk, Cold Chris, Funky Frank, Golden Dragon Ninja, J-Rascal, Jazzy, Kid Kyle, L Squeeze, T-Mony, T-Wrex

Performers (Rockwell Dance Academy): Code Red, J-Money, Jam Rock, Juju, Scotch, Sofye

Choreographers: Honey Rockwell, Leah Dragnmuffin, Tron Robinson

Music: DJ Nervex

Fight! A classic martial arts tale of one school challenging another to a duel in the playground – it's Rockwell Dance Academy versus Breakers for Life.

Formed in 2014 **Breakers for Life** is a crew of young B-Boys and B-Girls from Charlotte and surrounding areas of North Carolina and Georgia. First conceived at Kādi Fit studio after teachers Tron Robinson and Leah Vissers got an opportunity to teach breaking to kids, this crew is composed mostly of their students.

Ambitions of the crew are to put on entertaining and inspiring performances and allow kids an opportunity to dance professionally. Having performed at *Breakin' Convention* CLT in both 2015 and 2016, witness the growth of the next generation of breakers from in and around the Queen City!

Rockwell Dance Academy was established in August 2013 in Acworth, Ga., by pioneer B-Girl Honey Rockwell and legendary B-Boy Orko.

The RDA mission is to help preserve the original hip hop dance styles such as breaking, popping, locking and also embrace the evolution of the old and new hip hop dance styles.

There are classes for everyone, all ages and all levels and there are also performance and battle crews.

Committed (N.C.) *U Saved Me*



Performer and Choreography: Javion Boggan

Combining mime styles with hip hop flavor, Javion is a showcase of a crossover of two seemingly different styles.

Since the age of 8, Javion was mentored in mime by Mrs. Velma, who taught him everything there was to know about the technique. While only a soloist, with his charisma and style filling the stage he hopes to travel the world to showcase his style of dancing.

Crayzee Collective (N.C.)

Banished From Glory: Satan's Fall



Performers: AJ Glasco, Arynn Owens, Jammie Pegues, Jonathan Davis, Makayla Cooper, Michelle Kerestes, Nia Baker, Tevin Pressly

Choreography: AJ Glasco

Assistant Choreographer: Arynn Owens

Music: Chrystopher Sims

Banished From Glory: Satan's Fall is a story of the creation of heaven and God's family. We see how Lucifer, one of God's children, becomes unhappy and wants to explore the world. Warned that once he leaves he is not able to return, how will Satan's journey go on his own?

Crayzee Collective formed in 2016 brought together by a love of dance. While most of the crew started dancing together in their childhood, individual members are both self-taught and studied dance across the USA by industry veterans, drawing inspiration from all aspects of life in their dance.

Femme Fatale (LA)

Paralyzed



Performers: Dassy, Lily, Marie Poppins, Sumi

Moving to the United States to pursue their dreams as professional dancers and choreographers **Femme Fatale** members are mostly known for their strong abilities in popping, animation and a high level of musicality with a feminine touch.

Originally from France, Mexico, Japan and Korea, but based in LA, Marie Poppins, Lily, Sumi and Dassy's mix of cultures, backgrounds and individual styles is what make Femme Fatale an original, powerful female collective.

Using their femininity as a strength, their technique as a weapon, and their passion as a power, they want to put their style of dance in the commercial world, becoming role models for women as they inspire future dance generations all over the world.

O.G. AllStars (U.S.)

Reminiscing



Performers: Kid Dynamo, Cozzmolock, Orko, Honey Rockwell, Bam Bam

O.G. ALLSTARS represents dancers worldwide with over 30 years experience in popping, locking and breaking. Each individual brings their own dance flava and style. Highlighted dance work and accomplishments for these dancers are working with Gloria Estefan, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Diana Ross, Brenda K Star, Jennifer Lopez, Will Smith and Kanye West just to name a few. They've traveled all over the world, were involved with the first theater production called "Jam on The Groove," "Break the Urban Funk Spectacular" and "Madhattan" at the Ny Ny hotel in Las Vegas. Highlighted movies these dancers appeared in were *Thrasher*, *Mannequin on the Move*, *White Men Can't Dance*, and the list goes on. Over 30 years of collectively making moves in the underground dance world as well as the commercial world of dance, these dancers continue to excel in their dance and are still very much involved. From promoting events, to speaking at universities and now even opening up their own dance academies, these dancers are the O.G. ALLSTARS.



Protocol (U.K.)

I Can't Breathe



Performers: Lanre Malaolu, Laurynas Godvaisy

Protocol has evolved from a competitive street dance group to an established dance theatre company – but their core ethos has never changed. At the heart of Protocol is innovation and risk. The group is constantly experimenting with movement to create fresh and dynamic pieces of theatre.

Protocol's creative fluidity means that they don't subscribe to any one traditional form of dance. The group uses a fusion of techniques, including street styles such as popping, hip hop, and krump, along with physical theatre, to create their own unique language of movement.

Stage Artists

Queen City Bittys (N.C.)

Thief of Joy



Performers: Connie Kingston, Dragon Muffin, Imiah Chew, Jade Chew, Jasmin Chew, Lil Chaos

How does envy and bullying affect young people and steal joy from life? **Queen City Bittys** physically explore the complex inner struggle to be oneself.

Queen City Bittys is a crew that has been dancing from as early as 2009. As a crew bonded together by close friendships they strive to support one another as a family while representing women in street dance at jams and performances. While they've been holding it down across stages and cyphers, their biggest achievement so far has been finding a new love and appreciation for dance through their crew.

Rot Not, Want Not (N.C.)

Rot Not, Want Not



Performers and Choreographers: Boukaey Drummer, Elie Melendez, Nikita Nikolaev, Tron Robinson

Music: DJ Ray Krol

Art: Lena Amore

Witness the “breakdown” of four individuals cut off from society as they are committed to an insane asylum for rehabilitation.

Rot Not, Want Not is made up of B-Boys from the North Carolina community who have been dancing since 2012. With amazing freestyle, flexible tricks and flavorful power moves, old school flava and ninja tricks influence their raw style.

Salah (France)

The Sickness



Performer and Choreographer: Salah

A living legend in the world of hip hop dance, this consummate performer is a master popper, locker, B-Boy, clown and all round entertainer. After his award-winning performances all over the world, **Salah** returns to the Breakin' Convention stage after a seven year hiatus that has seen him work with Cirque Du Soleil, Puma & David Blaine among others.

Soweto Skeleton Movers (S. Africa)

Seven 7



Performers: Jabulani, Junior, Molefi, Topollo

From the most notorious township on the African continent comes the **Soweto Skeleton Movers**. Experts in a particular form of pantsula dance developed by Skeleton Mover pioneer Jabulani, the crew uses comedic contortionism, frenetic footwork, and magical hat tricks that astound and amaze! In Soweto in the 1950s, commuters developed a dance style known as isparapara inspired by their jumping on and off of moving trains. This was mixed with tap dance and later became known as pantsula. More than a dance, pantsula is a lifestyle. Influences can be seen in jazz, breaking, popping, house and bone breaking.

Yeah Yellow (France) Yeah Yellow Sunshine



Performers: Bee D, Darkyoux, Francisco, Grun, Calvin, Kami, Ouili, Sheitto, Simo Croc, Steve Lelong

Choreography: Bee D, Kami

Founded in 2012 by dancers Kami and Bee D, **Yeah Yellow** are a multidisciplinary hip hop dance group from France. Since their inception they have performed and battled internationally, representing France with numerous titles under their belt.

Their obsession with the color yellow represents the sun, the force, and the light – a collective of dancing Jedi Knights showcasing their creativity, originality and “joie de vivre,” whatever style they dance, whether hip hop or breaking.

ABOUT *BREAKIN' CONVENTION*

Breakin' Convention represents the origins and evolution of hip hop culture from around the world and around the corner.

Through our world-renowned international festival, international touring, professional development, youth projects and educational program we seek to position hip hop dance alongside more historically established art forms.

We are a continually evolving organization and since the birth of our festival in 2004, we have grown to encompass a range of events and activities. *Breakin' Convention* (Festival and Tour), Open Art Surgery, Future Elements and Back to the Lab are all key projects in our calendar.

Our core values include profiling the world's elite hip hop performers, nurturing U.K.-based talent, exploring the possibilities of hip hop dance theatre, educating on the foundations of hip hop dance and engaging with children and young people.

Breakin' Convention is based at and supported by Sadler's Wells.

SADLER'S WELLS

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading creative organization dedicated to dance in all its forms. With over three centuries of theatrical heritage and a year-round program of performances and learning activities, its goal is to motivate everyone to experience dance – to take part, learn, experiment and be inspired. Audiences of over half a million come to Sadler's Wells' London theatres each year, with many more enjoying its touring productions at partner venues across the U.K. and around the world, or accessing its content through digital channels.

Sadler's Wells commissions and presents more new dance work than any other theatre in the world, embracing the popular and the unknown. Since 2005, it has helped to bring over 140 new dance works to the stage, many of them involving its 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies and four Associate Companies – the most exciting talents working in dance today. It also nurtures the next generation of talent through its artist development initiatives, and reaches over 25,000 annually through its learning and engagement programs.

Located in Islington, north London, the current theatre is the sixth to have stood on the site since it was first built by entrepreneur Richard Sadler in 1683. The venue has played an illustrious role in the history of theatre ever since with The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and English National Opera having all started at Sadler's Wells. Sadler's Wells is a charity and a National Portfolio Organization, currently receiving 10 percent of its revenue from Arts Council England.

The Hosts



JONZI D

Jonzi D is the founder and Artistic Director of *Breakin' Convention*.

A dancer, spoken word artist and an established performer in his own right. He is the foremost advocate for hip hop theatre, changing the profile and heavily influencing the development of the British hip hop dance and theatre scene for over two decades.

Since 2004 Jonzi D has been Artistic Director for *Breakin' Convention* and has triumphed in raising the profile and giving a platform to hip hop disciplines, which has gained worldwide recognition as being at the vanguard of the development of the art form. Through professional development projects Open Art Surgery and Back to the Lab, Jonzi has supported hundreds of hip hop dance and rap/poetry artists on their journey to creating theatre.

His pioneering work has seen him nominated for a MBE from the Queen, something he covered in 2013's *The Letter*.

His critically acclaimed works include 1995's *Lyrical Fearta*, 1999's *Aeroplane Man*, 2006's *TAG... Just Writing My Name* and 2009's *Markus the Sadist*. Jonzi's has been featured in HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, had his short films *Silence da Bitchin'* & *Aeroplane Man* screened on Channel 4, toured his work extensively all over the world, directed the Sydney Festival and delivered his own TED talk about the influence and evolution of hip hop culture.

Bluz

From humble Southern beginnings, Bluz has risen through the ranks of spoken-word entertainment. He is the slam master and coach of SlamCharlotte, a competitive team of poets that he led to back-to-back National Poetry Slam victories in 2007 and 2008.

An active member in the community, Bluz has worked on several projects with organizations such as Junior Achievement, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, Blumenthal Performing Arts, Wachovia, Bank of America, CBS Radio, Radio Disney, ESPN, SPEED TV, BET, and NASCAR where he wrote and performed several intros for the nationally televised show "NASCAR: Today," for which he won an Emmy.

Bluz has shared the stage with several distinguished poets from Taylor Mali to Nikki Giovanni, and he has opened for many national recording artists such as Outkast, Amel Larrieux, Yung Jeezy, Little Brother, Pink Floyd, Last Poets, D'Angelo, John Legend, Soulganic, Del La Sol, KRS ONE and more. He is the author of a book of poetry, "Articulate Slang"; has released three CDs; and has most recently released his hit single "US BE" through Universal Music Group.

Bluz remains a visionary in the art of spoken-word and slam poetry. His relentless pursuit to reinvent himself and the art form keep him in the upper echelon of poetry.



Graffiti Artists

Be sure to check out the awesome columns in the Knight Theater that were painted by these local graffiti artists:

- ▶ Ivan Aku Andujar
- ▶ Marisa Cohen
- ▶ DeNeer Davis
- ▶ Joe Dobson
- ▶ John Hairston
- ▶ Patrick Hairston
- ▶ Marcus Kiser
- ▶ Bree Stallings



Breakin' Convention DJs

- ▶ DJ Justice
- ▶ DJ Nervex
- ▶ DJ Shogun
- ▶ DJ Steel Wheel
- ▶ DJ Tramare



For Breakin' Convention

Artistic Director: Jonzi D

Tour Producer: Emma Ponsford

General Manager: Natalie Pryce

Program Manager: Michelle Norton

Festival Coordinator: Karine Goudout

Digital Communications Officer: Dave Barros

Marketing Manager: Lucy White

Marketing Assistant: Owen Ling

Press: Jolene Dyke

Education Assistant: Shay Rafati

Logo Design: Ben Wachenje

Production Manager & Lighting Designer:
John Maddox

Company Manager: Barbara Domue

Show Caller: Laura Stevens

Sound & AV Technician: Curtis Chadwick

Assistant Stage Manager: Erika Foley

**Thanks to all the staff at
Blumenthal Performing Arts!**

S A D L
E R S W
E L L S

STREET JAM

AT SPIRIT SQUARE



Sunday, Oct. 15

Outside Activities • NOON-4 PM

- ▶ Graffiti with DeNeer
- ▶ Food Trucks
- ▶ Workout Area
- ▶ Interactive Games



Graffiti



Workout area



Interactive games

Live Entertainment

On the Spirit Square Stage with DJ Nervex

- ▶ 12:30-1:30 PM
- ▶ 2:30-3:30 PM

Jason Jet
Morgan Gayla



Live entertainment

And much more ...

Inside Activities and Workshops

- ▶ 11 AM-NOON DJ Workshop featuring
With These Handz DJ Academy
Middleton McMillan Gallery

- ▶ 11 AM-NOON
- ▶ 1:15-2:15 PM

Dance Workshop
with Reliable Brother
Duke Energy Theater

- ▶ 3-4 PM

Fashion Freestyle produced
by Lisa D. and Bridgette Wright
McGlohon Theater



Dance Workshops

Dance Workshops with International Artists (\$10 each)

Breakin' Convention dance workshops with international artists feature some of the world's best dancers. These workshops are \$10 each and take place in Dance Studio C on the second level of Spirit Square. It's first-come, first-served, so be sure to arrive early!

- ▶ 10:30 AM-NOON

Popping, Animation,
Boogaloo and Effects
with Salah

- ▶ 12:30-2 PM

Breaking and Physical
Condition with Kami

- ▶ 2:30-4 PM

Freestyle Hip Hop with
Steve Lelong

Workshop Descriptions



Dance Workshop with Local Artist – Reliable Brother
Led by Charlotte-natives and *Breakin' Convention* alumni Reliable Brother, who also teach dancing classes every Monday here at Spirit Square. Reliable Brother is a duo of professional dancers, and this workshop will give you the opportunity to learn some new and fundamental dancing techniques.



Join W.A.R. 4 Health in the Workout Area

Fun contests will be held throughout the day!

W.A.R. 4 Health's mission is to promote a healthy lifestyle among the ranks of people and create a culture of good physical and mental wellness in our communities through better nutrition, hydration and taking fitness back to the basics of calisthenics. They work out several times a week in Freedom Park. Everyone is encouraged to attend these free workouts!



DJ Workshop – With These Handz DJ Academy

Ever wonder what it takes to be a DJ? Stop in for a hands-on experience and learn the art and science behind being a DJ.

With These Handz DJ Academy is a school for creative education through music. Its mission is to teach, inspire, and enhance the lives of individuals through engaging experiences. The academy is located in the NoDa area of Charlotte.



Fashion Freestyle – Fashion Show Produced by Lisa D. and Bridgette Wright

This fashion show will feature clothing from three local hip-hop/urban wear designers, music performances by local hip-hop artists, and an opening dance number that is not to be missed!

Designers for Fashion Show

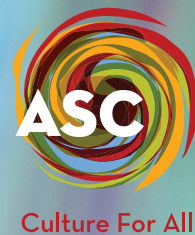
- ▶ DaniLI Apparel
- ▶ MNDY menswear
- ▶ Dani

QUENCH TIME



OBEY YOUR THIRST

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We believe strong communities must celebrate:
INCLUSION • INNOVATION • DIVERSITY • CREATIVITY

ASC is a Proud Sponsor of Breakin' Convention Street Jam 2017

ArtsAndScience.org | #CultureForAll