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DANCE OFFERINGS AT FIRST NIGHT 2010

Note: The complete press kit for First Night Boston 2010, including program guide and images can be viewed at <http://www.firstnight.org/PressRoom/Default.aspx>

(BOSTON) First Night Boston is the country's oldest and largest New Year's arts celebration. On Dec. 31, 2009 from 1 p.m. to midnight, First Night presents a day-long festival of art, music, dance, ice sculpture, fireworks and more. First Night is an alcohol-free event that welcomes children, families and revelers of all ages to celebrate community and unity through the arts. First Night Boston offers a wide array of dance this year. Most performances occur twice and last 45 minutes. For complete schedules including updates, please visit www.firstnight.org.

Boston Bhangra

Hynes Convention Center Hall A, 8 and 9 p.m.

Bhangra is a generic term that has been adopted to describe modern Asian Pop Music. However, it is actually the correct term for the traditional agricultural folk music originating from the Punjab region in the sub-continent of India. Traditional Bhangra has always played a major part in the life of the people, and forms an integral part of the fabric of the society. Though Bhangra has changed over time, it has always kept its roots intact to the traditional forms of the dance.

OrigiNation/O'Shea Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance: The First Night Beat

Hynes Convention Center Room 302, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Roxbury's OrigiNation is dedicated to promoting the importance of self-respect, health, nutrition, education and self-esteem, while emphasizing the impact that African influences have had on dance. Under the direction of Shaumba Yandje Dibinga, they specialize in hip hop, jazz, tap, step and Caribbean dance. The O'Shea Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance presents their combination of traditional and contemporary Irish dance and costumes. Their performances have won awards and accolades internationally. These two companies do their own things, and then they dance together, in what has become one of First Night's signature pairings, creating some explosive cross-cultural hip-step-hop.

Urbanity Dance

Hynes Convention Center Room 302, 9:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Entering its third year, this Boston-based contemporary dance company is comprised of 30 company dancers from strong technical backgrounds who aim to use their formal training to push boundaries and affect change. Community workshops celebrate accessibility to the arts, and performances are often a product of cross-disciplinary collaboration with local musicians, fashion designers, and even architects.

Dance at the FedEx Family Festival

The FedEx Family Festival at the Hynes Convention Center offers fun for the whole family, with dozens of events, including some dance performances. The young people in **Fuerza International** perform "Music and Dance From Our Latin Countries" (Exhibit Hall C, 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m.). Chinatown's **Chu Ling Dance Academy**, an intergenerational troupe that presents traditional and contemporary Chinese dance, presents a rich picture of Asian life in the city (Exhibit Hall C, 1:30, 3 and 4:30 p.m., presented in

association with *The Epoch Times*). **A. Major Dance Company** brings a variety of dance disciplines, including tap, hip hop, lyrical and ethnic, from the three performing companies of the Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts (Exhibit Hall C, 2, 3:30 and 5 p.m.). The FedEx Family Festival is sponsored by FedEx and the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority.

In addition to these and other great events, First Night will also feature **Japanese Anime; Kaiju Big Battel; Kristin Hersh; Anat Cohen; Bollywood Film**; five ice sculptures; **The Metro Boston First Night Grand Procession**; the **Boston Family Fireworks** presented by Mayor Menino and The Mugar Foundation; the traditional **midnight fireworks over Boston Harbor** sponsored by Cape Dairy; and a midnight countdown with WBZ-TV's Jack Williams and Lisa Hughes at Copley Square. For a complete listing, visit www.firstnight.org.

All First Night outdoor events are free, though supported by sales of the First Night button (artwork by Ekuia Holmes), which is the ticket for admission to all indoor events. Buttons are \$18 (children under 4 admitted free) and are available at Boston-area Shaw's and Star Markets, Tedeschi's, Store 24, Au Bon Pain and dozens of other locations. For a complete list of advance sale locations or to buy buttons online, visit www.firstnight.org. Buttons are available at a special web price of \$15 at www.firstnight.org through Dec. 26. For more information, visit www.firstnight.org.

First Night, Inc. is a private, 501©3 non-profit organization. It is supported by public and private contributions, sponsorships, and through the admission sales of the First Night button. First Night Boston is grateful for the support of its major contributors: The City of Boston, Thomas M. Menino, Mayor; WBZ-TV; Metro Boston; The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority; FedEx, Frank Ward of Cape Dairy; The Boston Foundation; The Linde Family Foundation; Jane's Trust; Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau; an Anonymous Foundation; Massachusetts Cultural Council; Fleetwing Foundation; MBTA; WGBH Radio; Boston 4 Productions; The Mugar Foundation, Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, Bank of America, Trustee; Clear Channel Outdoor and Wall USA.

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