



March 28th, 2013

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DANCE, ENTERTAINMENT, ART, COMMUNITY

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Non-Dancer Dance Collective Born From Best Performance of 2012

NEW YORK – 55 people of all creeds, shapes & ages have come together to form the ***Shakedown Dance Collective***. Brainchild of professional dancers **Deborah Lohse & Jamie Benson**, the *Shakedown* consists of a weekly 2 hour dance class / rehearsal session wherein dance enthusiasts train & prepare for performances throughout New York City. Benson deems it to be, “a relentless dare to the masses to dance, sweat & laugh more.” With just under 2 months since it's inception, the highly inclusive dance group is already slated for 2 performances with the ***Dance Parade New York***.

Title: [International Dance Day Gala](#)

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2013

Where: Dixon Place, 161A Chrystie Street, NY

When: 7pm

Cost: \$10 - \$100

Tickets: thannualinternationaldanceday.eventbrite.com

Title: Dance Parade New York

Date: May 18, 2013

Where: Broadway / Tompkins Square Park

When: 1pm – 7pm

Cost: FREE (General Public) \$50 (Grandstand)

Tickets / RSVP: Barbara@DanceParade.org

Many *Shakedown* dancers first met as part of last year's *Le Grand Continental*, an ambitious, 30-minute contemporary line dance by Montreal-based choreographer Sylvain Emard. A joint presentation of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council & the Joyce Theater, *Le Grand Continental*, was performed at the South Street Seaport last Summer & was a sensation; being deemed one of the “Best Moments in Dance of 2012” by New Yorker Magazine. Dance Instructors Deborah Lohse & Jamie Benson, who led the teaching of the event, saw a need for a continuing dance happening for the general public & formed the *Shakedown* to that end.



Deborah Lohse has been creating live performance since 2007. Her work has been presented at The Clark Theater at Lincoln Center, Dance Theater Workshop, Joyce SoHo, Joe's Pub, Dixon Place and Dance New Amsterdam. Born and raised in California, Lohse received degrees in dance and theater from the University of California, San Diego. She performed in the work of the Sacramento Ballet, the San Diego Ballet, and Monica Bill Barnes & Company, and currently performs with

Doug Elkins. As an educator, Lohse has worked closely with the Lincoln Center Institute, Dance New Amsterdam and Eliot Feld's Ballet Tech and has been a guest artist at universities and schools including North Carolina School of the Arts, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Purdue University, Milwaukee Ballet and Tahoe Youth Ballet.



Jamie Benson, proclaimed as “one of the strongest, hottest contemporary dancers of his generation” by L.A. Times dance critic [Lewis Segal](#), is a dancer, choreographer & Alumnus of Cornish College of Art. Heralded as “Chaplin-like” by Back Stage West, Benson first garnered critical attention originating the role of “Eldon” in [LATC's Ovation award](#) winning production of *Shag with a Twist*. Benson has performed in the film *Rent*, McDonald's *Mario Art* commercial, [Rei Aoo's Dance Planet](#), on the T.V. series *Dance360* & as a member of the [Rudy Perez Ensemble](#). In L.A., Jamie Benson instructed at Gold's Gym, [Fancy Feet Studio](#), the Pasadena Academy & an after-school program at Los Feliz

Elementary. Benson recently led over 300 dancers in both NYC & Portland, Oregon in the international line dance event [Le Grand Continental](#).

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