



BALANCING ACT
Hubbard Street Dance
Chicago artistic director
Jim Vincent.

Going Global

As a New Jersey-born, *American Bandstand*-loving three-year-old, Jim Vincent declared that he was going to dance. “I wanted to be Gene Kelly,” says the current artistic director of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.

Though his career didn’t exactly hit Hollywood, the 51-year-old Vincent—who’s leaving his high-profile post in August to become artistic director of the Nederlands Dans Theater, arguably the leading contemporary dance company on the planet—has certainly earned Kelly-worthy status in the dance world. Not only did he put in 12 years as a troupe member at NDT, but he also choreographs—his newest work, *Slipstream*, set to music by Grammy-winning British composer Benjamin Britten, opens as a world premiere June 4-7 at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park—and has had stints as a teacher, ballet master and rehearsal director in destinations like France and Spain.

In 2000, the married father of three returned to North America when he was chosen in a worldwide search to replace Hubbard Street founder Lou Conte as artistic director. After expanding on what Conte started more than 30 years ago by forming partnerships with the CSO, IIT and the Art Institute (to name a few); commissioning more than 25 works; and establishing the Inside/Out choreographic workshop and artistic fellowships for in-house choreographers, Vincent is leaving quite a legacy.

And though he’s excited, he is not quite ready to go. “I’m very sad to be leaving Chicago,” he says from his West Loop office. “Chicago has become my home, my family.” His new home in The Hague, with a population of just more than 475,000, will be quite the change. He’s looking for a house with a quiet garden since his 10-year-old daughter finessed a dog out of the move. “I’ll miss the energy of the city. It’s been a great ride.” *Hubbard Street Dance Summer Series, June 4-7. \$25-\$86. 205 E. Randolph St., 312.850.9744, hubbardstreetdance.com. —Vicki Crain*