

## Rhythmically Speaking 2017 - Press Log



Featured on 8/17/2017 episode. Archived audio can be found at:

Link: <http://www.npr.org/podcasts/414688991/art-hounds>



# 'Rhythmically Speaking' dance showcase offers footloose and spontaneous fun

REVIEW: "Rhythmically Speaking" showcase offers a strong group of dancers this year.

By Sheila Regan Special to the Star Tribune AUGUST 18, 2017 — 2:44PM

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Laura Osterhaus

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This weekend, “in:habit” gets a chance to breathe onstage at Illusion Theatre. Liebhard revisits the work as part of “Rhythmically Speaking,” the annual showcase of jazz and vernacular dance that she produces. With a bit more space for her dancers to move around in, her sporty movement and interchanging rhythms, and effortless low-to-the ground cool are able to breathe more easily, in a satisfying performance.

Liebhard’s is one of several strong group works presented this year. The dances presented at “Rhythmically Speaking” aren’t about pushing. Instead, loose and spontaneous are the names of the game. That’s not only true of the moves, but also for a bit of spoken word by See More Perspective, who delivers two poems during the show. Coming in once during the first act and again in the second, the pieces reflect on world events with an expressive pulse.

Karla Grotting’s beachy “Hold and Release,” a premiere, sets the mood for the evening. Her choreography flows and stretches, winding down riffing paths as recorded music by the Saxopaths takes unexpected turns.



BILL CAMERON

Jeffrey Peterson, formerly based in the Twin Cities and now living in Pennsylvania, has an impressive piece about fighting against isolation through human connection and touch, with some nice work by local dancer Laura Selle Virtucio as part of an 11-person ensemble.

O'Calla Joslyn presents a documentary-style memoir dance piece, taking the audience on a journey back to the 1990s. Through voice-over, Joslyn explains how she discovered jazz funk from Rosie Perez's Fly Girls choreography on the TV show "In Living Color." Footage of the Fly Girls dancing and interviews with Perez play in the background as Joslyn's interpretation of Perez's choreography juxtaposes with the more banal, restrictive styles of dance she learned growing up. The piece's delivery is sometimes choppy, but Joslyn's

vulnerability is heartwarming.

The evening has two riveting solo pieces. The first, “A Love Poem for Lonely Prime Numbers,” created and performed by the incredibly bendy Laura Osterhaus, will leave you gobsmacked by her articulate moves.

The second, a premiere called “numb bumb” by Kaleena Miller, actually gets the audience up on their feet and tapping. The nuanced character portrait holds some dark tones beneath its hot pink veneer, and Miller envelops that tension marvelously.

Sheila Regan is a Minneapolis arts writer.

Link: <http://www.startribune.com/review-rhythmically-speaking-dance-showcase-offers-footloose-and-spontaneous-fun/441018493/>



*Minnesota*  
**PLAYLIST**

# Speaking of Rhythm...

I got out of my head and let my heart and body  
do the reviewing

**REVIEW BY** ERIN ROBERTS AUGUST 19, 2017



Let's just say I had a delightful evening watching Rhythmically Speaking's collaborative annual show at the Illusion Theater earlier tonight. With the tumultuous political and social climate we're encountering today, the show was meant to "serve as a means (of) escape and connection," an opportunity to have "respite and (to) re-energize." I can wholeheartedly commend Erinn Liebhard (Artistic Director) and her cohorts for accomplishing this goal and I will attempt to explain how and WHY I felt this way.

As an artist, but NOT a dancer, I don't always make a point to see dance pieces, and maybe this is something I need to personally remedy. There is so much involved in creating a dance performance; music, choreography, storytelling, costuming, casting, emotion, energy, and breath. And, unlike a conventional story, in dance, you must rely on your audience's visceral and/or physical reaction to determine success. So I listened to my body. My feet tapping, head bobbing, a stupid grin from ear to ear, hooting and hollering, heart racing; this evening ran the physical gamut and I loved it. From a lovely opening piece, with uniform costumes, an awesome saxophone quartet soundtrack (former sax player here appreciated that) and an upbeat, inclusive diverse group of women and bodies of all shapes and sizes, I was hooked. Fast forward to the closing piece; with an even larger group of people of all sexes and colors holding hands and acknowledging each other, the variety and inclusiveness was palpable. This is a reasonable one and a half hour show that has something for EVERYone! You have two more chances to see it!



For me, the most notable pieces were A Love Poem for Lonely Prime Numbers, (choreographed and performed by Laura Osterhaus), which is a spoken word story with a beautifully articulated movement base to go with it. This woman can dance! Her pop and lock is on point and it was a whimsical and relatable tale of longing and romance that made me invest in her, and the outcome of this plight between “59, 60 and 61” respectively. Fabulous. An Ode to Rosie Perez (perhaps the most informative piece of the evening for me growing up as a kid in the 90’s...I had NO idea that she was the mastermind behind the FLY GIRLS of In Living Color!!) is such a cool concept and I loved the TBT to LLCoolJ et al...and the multimedia-ness of this experience, including video, audio interview and some damn fine hip hop dance! If I had any complaint, it’s that an homage of this nature and genre needed more presence from people of color to make it believable to me. It’s Minnesota, not the Bronx, and I can sustain my suspension of disbelief BUT, I’m just saying... And THEN...there’s Kaleena Miller...seriously what can you say? The woman is a fantastic furiousness of a tapping phenom and she kills it in her premiere of numb bumb. Wearing a killer hot pink suit, and encouraging audience participation, she and this evening is something you’ll be “too bad soooo sad” to miss.

Aside from the upbeat and inspired dance work exemplified here tonight, there was an awesome inclusion of spoken word by the poet, SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE, who was commissioned to speak to the aforementioned theme “escape and connection.” SEE MORE nails it with two inspired pieces that discuss how we can escape the hand we’re dealt...and

then maybe why we shouldn't. We are the vessels for change and it's imperative that we see and acknowledge what's around us, be brave enough to confront it, and attempt to embrace the conflict of our current reality. Very well done sir. The bottom line; I watched seven different pieces, with people of different ethnicities, ages, body types, sexes and was engaged and ultimately surprised at each new iteration. Dance can be esoteric, but if you just stop trying to figure everything out, allow yourself to sit back and breathe it all in, you're bound to find your own experience and personal meaning in it. Stop thinking, relax and enjoy. This show is beyond worth it. Congrats to Ms. Liebhard and crew, you've done it again. Rhythmically Speaking is a local gem.

Link:

<https://minnesotaplaylist.com/magazine/article/2017/speaking-of-rhythm>

# Minnesota Monthly

## Rhythmically Speaking 2017

### Date/Time

Aug 17, 2017 to Aug 19, 2017

07:30 PM until 09:30 PM



The 2017 show marks the ninth installment of Rhythmically Speaking's annual production featuring work by local and national choreographers creating jazz and American vernacular dance. This year's production, exploring how rhythm and groove serve as means to both escape and connect, will feature the work of: Karla Grotting, O'Calla Joslyn, Kaleena Miller, Erinn Liebhard (RS Artistic Director), Laura

Osterhaus, Jeffrey Peterson (MN-bred, PA-based) and Abigail Whitmore. The show runs at 7:30pm on August 17th-19th and also at 2:00pm on the 19th at the Illusion Theater (8th floor of the Cowles Center). For more on each choreographer and the history of this production series, visit [rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org](http://rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org).

## **Cost**

\$20-\$23

## **Location**

[View map](#)

Illusion Theater  
528 Hennepin Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, MN

## **Additional Information**

### **Sponsor**

Rhythmically Speaking

### **Contact name**

Erinn Liebhard

### **Contact email**

[info@rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org](mailto:info@rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org)

### **Website**

<http://www.rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org>

Link:

<http://www.minnesotamonthly.com/Calendar/index.php/name/Rhythmically-Speaking-2017/event/25329/>



Prior Lake PLAMERICAN.COM  
**American**

Prior Lake native reprises  
'Rhythmically Speaking'

Aug. 17-19 by [Hannah Jones](#) Jul 25, 2017



Laura Smyth danced a piece by choreographer Pat Taylor during "Rhythmically Speaking" 2016.

Prior Lake native Erinn Liebhard will return with "Rhythmically Speaking" in its ninth-annual production at the Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 17-19 and 2 p.m. on Aug. 19.

This year's show will feature local and national choreographers — including Liebhard herself, as well as Karla Grotting, O'Calla Joslyn, Kaleena Miller, Laura Osterhaus and Abigail Whitmore — with seven different perspectives on the experience of "giving into rhythm" and "groove," to both escape and to connect. The show will also feature work by Minnesota native Jeffrey Peterson, who has gone on to national and international acclaim for his work.

More information and tickets are available at [www.rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org/2017-show/](http://www.rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org/2017-show/). Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$23 at the door.

Link:

[http://www.swnewsmedia.com/prior\\_lake\\_american/news/lifestyle/prior-lake-native-reprises-rhythmically-speaking-aug/article\\_eacd9a3b-ecc7-5b1c-b9b7-788f5fbd3f65.html](http://www.swnewsmedia.com/prior_lake_american/news/lifestyle/prior-lake-native-reprises-rhythmically-speaking-aug/article_eacd9a3b-ecc7-5b1c-b9b7-788f5fbd3f65.html)