



BONEdanse | Breakbone DanceCo.
3258 N. Damen Ave #1F • Chicago, IL 60618 • 773.841.BONE

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**BONEdanse PRESENTS *This is a DAMAGE MANUAL* THIS WINTER.
WHERE THE SUB-TRASH PROPAGANDA OF THE 80S CLASHES WITH THE FEAR OF
EVERYTHING 50S
WHERE THERAPY PROMISES TO HELP, BUT MORE OFTEN DESTROYS...
WHAT'S YOUR DAMAGE?**

CHICAGO – (December 20, 2011) BONEdanse's (simplified from its former Breakbone DanceCo), evening length version of *This is a Damage Manual* premieres this February; a satirical, witty, and humoured performance that offers as many absurd questions about the idiosyncrasies of human behavior as it answers. With its title sourced directly from the industrial post-punk music entity *The Damage Manual* featuring 80s punk era icons Martin Atkins (Public Image Ltd [PiL], Killing Joke), Chris Connelly (Murder, Inc), Geordie Walker (Killing Joke) and Jah Wobble (PiL), BONEdanse's *Damage Manual*, also draws largely from the world of vintage instruction manuals and self-help vinyl records to explore how universally damaged we all are and how many of us stay that way, *Damage Manual* combines Director Atalee Judy's signature ferocity and aggressive physicality with process-driven choreography wherein Judy and the dancers culled movement from a range of Do-It-Yourself Fix-It books, safety operation guides, and Judy's earliest dance notations in binders (circa 1994). A build-up to the performance, this summer's *Danse Skitz*, 12 weeks of online video shorts produced by BONEdanse, featured site-specific and often comedic performance, introducing four performers on a spontaneous journey to discover, adapt and to have a little fun while building on their personas (some personas will be implemented in the show). ***Damage Manual* will run for 2 weeks February 2-12 at Theater Wit with performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8:00pm and Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm. Theater Wit is located at 1229 W Belmont, Chicago, 60657 in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. Enjoy a drink at The Wit Bar and stay after the performance to hang out with the artists in the theatre for an after show reception with hors d'oeuvres. Ticket prices are Thursday/Friday \$15, Saturday \$24, and Sunday matinee \$20. ALL tickets are available at walk-up or call-in box office: 773.975.8150 (no service fee charges for online or phone purchases) or ticketing online at www.theaterwit.org. Follow BONEdanse on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bonedanse or join their email list for discount ticket offers at www.bonedanse.com**

The world is a big hot mess. Everyone is bracing for an emotional meltdown of some sort or another. So maybe now is the best time to look back to the days when things were simpler and easier to manage. It's time for some good ol' fashioned wisdom. Now, we can't be the ones to give you that advice. We just don't have the chops. But we have found some people who can. Their names are from a forgotten treasure trove of 1950s era motivational, self-help, and spoken-word records. Names like the hypnosis guru Dr. Murray Banks, the smooth talking, slightly condescending Earl Nightingale, and the "just take another tranquilizer" women's stress disorder



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advocate Dr. Beverley Weeks to name a few...and they essentially wrote, and offered the topics for, the *Damage Manual*. And we listened.

The edgy and in-your-face style of Breakbone is nuanced with an irreverent spin in this new work by the newly honed BONEdanse. Changing the company name and logos was in part due to personal changes in Judy's life as well as a desire to not be categorized by her own established political and aggressive style of the 14-year old Breakbone. Judy's creations have always delved into the darker territories of the mind and have often jumped off that ledge, but with *Damage Manual*, the introspection embraces the absurd, non-sequitur and humorous side of the psychological state of a desperately-seeking-to-be-helped mind and its potential for perilous consequences and/or the epiphanies found within. Atalee reflects, "*Considering today's headlines, this is an extremely timely work. Damaged minds, environments, relationships and even the breakdown of language take its toll on us. We have to either fix what's broken or learn to live with it. I mean really, aren't we all damaged and just getting by as best we can? Is there a fix? Hypnosis, meds, therapy, self-help... the list is endless and we become so desperate to do whatever it takes to remedy our situations.*"

Along with Judy, BONEdanseur vets Mindy Meyers and Anita Fillmore, with the recent addition of Janna Barta, embody the frustration of attempting to repair what's broken, often with mixed results. Utilizing the premise of stereotypical medical hypnosis to fix what ails you, the performers take on personas to reveal the delusional, anxiety ridden, iconic monsters hidden in all of us to create moving dichotomies. Other stereotypes are utilized as well, ranging from germaphobic cleaners to a dysfunctional ballerina, from a sick dictator to a stressed out housewife. The latter which is reflected in a solo, *The Woman Who Had It All*, set on Mindy Meyers by former Breakbone company member and hysterical performer about town Jyl Fehrenkamp.

Atalee comments on the tone of the new work, "*The movement is not angsty aggressive, but I admit it's bold, assertive, and manipulative – a lot like how mental illness and therapy has been dealt with throughout the decades. It's about change being frustrating, hard, and funny in a dark biting way. Sometimes we need to be pushed, coerced, or repeatedly corrected – and this can make and/or break people to change their habits or give up on the whole thing all together. Good or bad? Who am I to decide... but manipulative tactics are found as far back as Hippocrates to Freud to Dr. Phil in an attempt to ail the damaged mind – we've just been inspired to call it as we see it, have some fun while doing it, and put it into a dance.*"



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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT: Damage Manual, a darkly comedic dance theater work examining vintage self-help books and recordings through dynamic physicality.

WHO: BONEdanse.

A solo created by guest choreographer Jyl Fehrenkamp

Choreography by Atalee Judy with performances by Janna Barta, Anita Fillmore, Atalee Judy & Mindy Meyers.

Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass

Costumes, Video, and Soundscore: A. Judy

WHEN: Thursdays-Sundays, February 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 12;

Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances at 8:00 pm, Sundays at 3: 00 pm

WHERE: Theater Wit is located at 1229 W Belmont, Chicago, 60657 in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood.

HOW: Ticket prices are Th/Fr \$15, Sat \$24, and Sunday matinee \$20. ALL tickets are available at walk-up or call-in box office: 773.975.8150 (no service fee online or by phone) www.theaterwit.org Follow BONEdanse on Facebook and join their email list for exclusive discount ticket offers at www.bonedanse.com

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

Atalee Judy is an experimental dancemaker, performer and the director of Chicago based dance company BONEdanse (a pared down title of the former Breakbone DanceCo). Her professional résumé spans over 2 decades and includes the creation of over 30 dance works, and the production of 14 full evening length concerts for her 14 year old company. Ms. Judy's work has been presented locally in Chicago and in Los Angeles, Austin, Minneapolis, Toronto, Amsterdam, and Kostroma, Russia. She has been commissioned by Collaboraction Theater, Redmoon Theater, Adler Planetarium, Metro Chicago, Second City/GayCo, The Dance COLEctive and The Chicago Moving Company. She was named by New City magazine as one of "*The Players: 50 People Who Really Perform for Chicago*" (2010), cited in The Chicago Reader's "*Best Choreographers in Chicago*" (2009) and her production *DE-evolution of Mudwoman* received New City's "*Top 5 Best Dance Shows by Chicago Dance Companies*" (2009). Ms. Judy's athletic and poignant performances have consistently collided with socio-political commentary. The work is often recognized for bold, unconventional choreographic decisions in creating works that are charged with a punk rock intensity and an honest use of gravity. Ms. Judy has committed over 10 years of her career to codifying her own extreme movement style of falling techniques she coined *The Bodyslam Technique*, which she developed in 1998 and still implements in her dance classes



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today. For seven consecutive years, Atalee has been an Artist-In-Residence with Arts Partner, The Chicago Moving Company, where she teaches her falling integrated dance classes at Hamlin Park. Judy was a Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Artist, has received two consecutive grants for Artistic Fellowships from the Illinois Arts Council and was the recipient of a Chicago Dance and Music Alliance's Elizabeth F. Cheney Dance Achievement Award for Excellence in Performance. With over 20 years saturated in the Chicago dance scene, Atalee is still committed to creating dance works of uncompromising intensity and visceral engagement while discovering the potential opportunity for growth and to become transparent in the process. Atalee earned her Bachelor of Arts in Dance Performance & Choreography, with Honors in Outstanding Achievement, at Columbia College Chicago in 1994.

Jyl Fehrenkamp is a dancer, choreographer, administrator and robot enthusiast. Her creative work is influenced by her love of the quirky and often fuses dance with burlesque-inspired performance art. Jyl has been the curator and hostess of Links Hall's Poonie's Cabaret since 2006, and is currently one half of the DJ duo, the Fabulous Ladies of Fitness. She is the choreographer and nerd-in-residence for "Alien Queen", a rock-musical parody of the "Alien" movies set to the music of Queen. Jyl has also curated & hosted the sci-fi variety hour, "Battlestar Fantastica", which will return to the Metro this Fall with "Alien Queen". Jyl teaches yoga at the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, Yogaview and Cheetah gym and is grateful to be able to lunge around Chicago.

COLLABORATOR BIOS

Janna Barta is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and honors recipient of a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Theater and Dance with an Emphasis in Dance and a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology. In her undergraduate study at Northern Illinois University, she has had the opportunity to train under professors Randall Newsom (Ruth Page Center), Judith Chitwood (Momenta), Paula Frasz (Danszloop), Autumn Eckman (Gus Giordano and Hubbard Street), Steven Norman (San Francisco Ballet Company), as well as Keith Elliot (Dance for Life), John Leher (Gus Giordano), Debbie Allen (Fame), Claire Bataille, Ann Reinking (All That Jazz & Broadway's Fosse), Joel Hall, Nick Pupillo (Visceral Dance Studio) and Chloe Jensen. Her Northern Dance Theater credits include solo and ensemble work in pieces by Autumn Eckman, Randall, Paula Frasz as well as appearing in voluntary theater works as an actor in *The Vagina Monologues* and dancer/choral member in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. In addition, she has also appeared in the annual *Art for Life* AIDS benefit productions in pieces with choreography by Keith Elliot and John Leher, as well as premiering her own choreographic and dance movement therapy-inspired work, *Gray Mourning*, in honor of the victims in the campus shooting that had occurred on 2/14/08. Since graduation, Janna has been furthering her dance education under Nick Pupillo at Visceral Dance Studio, Atalee Judy of BONEdanse|Breakbone DanceCo., and The



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Chicago Moving Company, in addition to cross-training in martial arts and stunt work at Asylum Stunts. Her post-graduate performance credits have been Ruth Page's *Dance Chance* as a soloist in *Unearthed* with choreography by Dayna Stephansen (Moves Studio) and Breakbone's *This is a Damage Manual*. As of 2011, she officially became a BONEdanse|Breakbone DanceCo. member. Her goals for the future include continuing creative collaboration and appearances in BONEdanse|Breakbone DanceCo. productions all while advancing to a Master's Degree and possible career in Forensic Psychology.

Anita Fillmore received her M.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography from the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University and a B.A. from Barat College of DePaul University. Her choreography has been shown in Chicago, New York and abroad. She has danced with Instruments of Movement, Jon Lehrer, The Second Avenue Dance Company, Bill Young and Colleen Thomas Dancers, ProjectLIMB, Kyle Abraham/Abraham-In-Motion, and Atalee Judy/BONEdanse. Fillmore teaches Dance Composition at Loyola University Chicago. She is also the Associate Executive Director of the MOMENTA Performing Arts Company based in Oak Park. Currently, Ms. Fillmore is on faculty at the Academy of Movement and Music as a dance instructor, preschool teacher, arts administrator and company member/choreographer for MOMENTA. She has been a core company member of Breakbone since 2008.

Mindy Meyers is currently celebrating 16 years of dancing, performing, and choreographing in Chicago! A founding member of Breakbone, she is relentlessly inspired and challenged by Atalee and this awesome, ever-advancing company. In addition, she continues to dance for The Chicago Moving Company, where she was a company member for 7 years, as well as with the ever evolving Impending Behavior Orchestra. Other Chicago credits include: Anatomical Theatre, Cindy Brandle Dance Company, Concert Dance, Inc., Hedwig's Dancers' Three, The Humans, Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, Perceptual Motion, Inc., and several independents. Her choreographic endeavors, often supported by live music and leaning heavily on the theatrical side include: "Fear" and "Torque" at the Neo-Futurarium, a duet with Bass Trumpeter, Ryan Shultz for the Vet Art Project, several solos for Estrogenfest and Drinking & Writing's Beerfly Alleyfight, and "Hauptmann" for Timeline Theatre. Mindy is a graduate of Western Michigan University, The Chicago School of Massage Therapy, and is a proud former "Barnie". She has been fortunate to tour most of the States as well as Brazil, Mexico, Toronto, and most recently, to Mongolia!

A wide variety of Hi-resolution photos may be found at <http://www.breakbone.com/photos.html> on our website. A special gallery has been made called "PRESS DAMAGE" for right click "Save As" option for 300 DPI 5X7" or 8X10" format photos. Press interested in interviews or previewing a rehearsal can feel free to contact director Atalee Judy directly at 773.841.2663 or atalee@breakbone.com.
