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For Immediate Release

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THE STEPCREW **performing three styles of dance and fiery fiddling**



Idaho Falls, ID – Bold and almost magical The StepCrew will put on a performance that is based on pure ability as the dancers are certainly nothing less than virtuosic in their respective styles. A mixture of Irish Stepdance, Ottawa Tap, and Modern Tap fusing together all the while a gallery of fiddles excitedly dance among the owners strings. A vibrant choreographed whirl of arms, legs, feet, and fiddle bows move in perfect angular velocity as each distinct personality of the dancer emerges onstage. Step Crew is made up of six skillful dancers, five musicians and a vocalist. The StepCrew will be at the Colonial Theater on February 10, 2012 at 7:30. Tickets are \$32/\$22 and available online at www.idahofallsarts.org or by calling 208-522-0471. Idaho Falls Arts Council ticket office is open M-F 11-5 and Saturday's 10-4 at 498 A Street, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402.

Many of the performers have previously toured with various revered stage shows, including legendary Irish group The Chieftains and Bowfire. While the group showcases traditional classics in their dancing, they also move through modern interpretations of Celtic dances and powerful new compositions created specifically for this tour.

Take Nathan and Jon Pilatzke, two brothers from rural Ontario who haphazardly get started in Canadian Stepdancing and Fiddling. The two boys, like a surprisingly high amount of other Canadian children, spend their summer weekends travelling around Ontario competing in Fiddle and Stepdance festivals. It is at one of these events that they meet their future best friend and fellow Canadian Stepdancer and Fiddler Dan Stacey. Sure, it's a competition, but who's got time to worry about winning when there's so much fun to be had? Cut to years later – Nathan, Jon, and Dan pursue their art forms into a professional career. It is in this forum that they encounter multi-time Irish Stepdancing champion Cara Butler and the four friends unknowingly and unwittingly create the core, both physically and conceptually, for a new dance production aptly titled The StepCrew.

It is this type of connection and familiarity that are the backbone of The StepCrew – other dancers and musicians in the show traceable like branches of a tree back to its trunk. However, the mission of this troupe involves much more than simply the gathering of extremely talented friends. The StepCrew is a completely original and virtuosic display of three styles of percussive dance – Irish Stepdancing, Ottawa Valley Stepdancing, and Tap – in a fully realized theatrical setting. This mission could not be clearer as the curtain rises to a short taste of each style in its traditional form, only to be followed by a bolt to the senses resulting in the full company dancing a uniform style – a style which Jean Butler of Riverdance fame could only describe as “a unique and seamless blend of all three”. From there this amazing company take you on a journey from a house party in the back kitchen of an old Irish cottage, to a lamp lit sidewalk in New York City, to a French Canadian lumbercamp in Quebec, using nothing more than their feet.

Where it is inarguable that The StepCrew is a celebration of dance, one cannot deny the musical abilities of the instrumentalists – two of the dancers themselves being noted and champion Canadian fiddlers. The accompanying musical arrangements, perfectly crafted to compliment both traditional and progressive dance moments, are performed by many of the most respected musicians in the Celtic genre today. Of particular note is Alyth McCormack, a Scotland native, whose haunting vocals not only contrast flawlessly the vigor of the dance, but also act as a soundtrack inspiring it. Alyth’s distinct traditional vocal flair certainly ties in with the flavours of traditional music and dance offered up in this “tour de force”.

“The StepCrew does not simply draw their audience in, they take them by the hand and remind us what dance is meant to be about – fun!”.

Upcoming Shows:

2/15 The Good Lovelies

2/23 Flamenco Vivo/Carlota Santana

3/6 Damn Yankees

3/17 Dervish

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