**2010 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE**

**Hip Nut**
Your little Sugar Plum or Mouse King is going to accumulate a baker's dozen anthropomorphic nutcrackers—a common merrde (good luck) gift—for each year he or she performs in Tchaikovsky's bulletproof ballet. Standing out in the wooden, white-bearded crowd is **Bob the Joffrey Monksay ($30)**, joychain ($10), a special edition of the popular Japanese collectible that's adorably Rotofugi. Spin his head around to mismatch the Mouse King's mug with the Prince's body, and vice versa. Available at the Joffrey Ballet box office, 10 E Randolph St (312-739-0120). Its Nutcracker runs December 10–26 at the Auditorium Theatre.

**Warm hands, warm heart**
Is your honey suffering a frosty welcome from her ballet barre or yoga studio floor? Get a friend of work who's forever cursing her frigid cubicle? Local designer Jen Moran's Cintya hand warmers ($32 a pair) are made in Bolivia from 100 percent organic alpaca wool; proceeds alleviate poverty and go toward community strengthening programs in the developing world. Available online at greencaliastyle.com.

**Text messaging**
'the season to have a ton of cards on hand. During your next trip north, get a few extra Papercuits ($4.50 each) to stash in a desk drawer. Designed and created by 13-year-old Wilmette resident Paige Ecksberger, these cards are dance themed but not season specific, so you can use them for thank-yous in January and merdes wishes on opening nights. Available at Allegro Dance Boutique, 2114 Central St, Evanston (847-733-8460, allegrodanceboutique.com).

**Bulletproof ballet**
Dance Studio, 77 E Randolph St (312-246-3270); El: Red to LaSalle; Orange, Pink, Green, Brown, Purple (walk hrs) to Randolph. Metro: Elevated Millenium Station. Bus: 5, 14, 10, 14, 20, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 251, 257, 10–11:30pm; $15, three for $40, all for $60. Having Dances member Michel Rodriguez has the amazing ability to look, think, and read on stage and copy the movements of his students. He will offer his unique class, "Roteget's Amaziing Pilates Indepence-Method," tomorrow at the American Dance Festival. Rodriguez will also offer a class at the Joffrey Ballet box office, 10 E Randolph St (312-739-0120). Its Nutcracker runs December 10–26 at the Auditorium Theatre.

**Holiday notice**
Many venues keep special hours over the holiday. Please call before heading out.

**Dance Chicago 2010**
Urban Movement Showcase Stage Thursday, November 25
- **Rolling Stone**
- Contemporary dance company Deeply Rooted builds community through performance; a reception precedes the show at 6:00pm, and talk-back follows.

- **Garbage World 4: Garbage Fest** 7pm. See Thu 18.
- **Lighter Than Air Dance Workshop with Michel Rodriguez Chicago Cultural Center**, 220 S Columbus Ave (312-742-8600). El: Cermak Red Line to Congress. All performances are free to the public; call for more information.

- **House Brew** Banks Hall, 3435 N Sheffield Ave (773-296-0897, housebrew.com). El: Red to Addison. 12-2pm, 8pm. $5 suggested donation. Thirteen young dance makers and performers, new from Chicago, share their connection with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, present an evening of new and recent work. The curatorial thread is the brain/body dichotomy, something you might call choreography's central concern. Subjects include Haiti, dementia and divadance.

**CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT**
November 26–28
Earth-shaking rhythms from around the world at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park

Global Rhythms 6
Nov 26–28
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