



For Immediate Release

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**SIXTH ANNUAL DANCE PARADE AND FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
DANCE INNOVATOR, BILL SHANNON, WILL BE A GRAND MARSHALL
AT THE 2012 PARADE**

More Than 70 Dance Styles, Nearly 200 Groups, Over 25 Performances

NEW YORK, March 15, 2012 – Dance Parade is pleased to announce dance innovator, Bill Shannon, will be one of its Grand Marshals at this year's Dance Parade. [Dance Parade New York](http://www.danceparade.org), is the only parade in the world to exclusively celebrate and showcase the diversity of dance, and will mark its sixth year on **May 19, 2012, at 1pm Eastern**.

Dance innovator, Bill Shannon, born in 1970, has evolved a unique "soul skating" art-form that mixes street dancing on rocker-bottom crutches with 70's roots skateboarding style. Shannon's rolling-dance is a result of a childhood degenerative hip disease that resulted in his evolving extraordinary crutch balancing skills. The rhythmic musicality of Shannon's skateboard carves with crutches harkens more to a 1970's Roller Funk disco dancer lineage than any contemporary notion of an extreme sport. Bill's numbers acknowledgements include a Wynn Newhouse Award in 2011, John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 2003, Foundation for Contemporary Art Award in 2000. Bill's official website is www.whatiswhat.com

The Dance Parade commences at Broadway and 21st Street, traveling 2 miles south through Union Square, turn east onto 8th Street and end in Tompkins Square Park in the East Village. This annual celebration of unique dance styles from around the world continues to grow by thousands of participants each year and will include a colorful explosion of 75 styles and 200 diverse groups, as well as an offering of decorative floats and lively music. The three-hour **post-parade DanceFest**, to start at 3pm, will feature two performance stages, dance lessons, workshops, dance parties and kids activities.

Since 2007, 30 of the 200+ groups have participated for all five years; dancer participation has increased four fold; and spectators have increased by nearly 50% each year, with an estimated 65,000 attendees in 2012. The impressive list of dance genres to be represented in the Sixth Annual parade will include traditional, cultural, urban, electronic, and club dance styles. Participants and spectators can check into the parade on [FourSquare](http://www.foursquare.com) as a moving target or post real-time videos to [Dance Parade's YouTube channel](http://www.youtube.com/danceparade). Fans can also follow the parade on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/danceparade) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/danceparade).

ABOUT DANCE PARADE NEW YORK

Dance Parade New York is an entity of Dance Parade Inc., which began in 2006 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Its charitable mission is to promote dance as an expressive and unifying art form, while educating the public about opportunities to experience dance. Dance Parade celebrates diversity by showcasing all forms of dance around the world through sponsorship of a yearly, citywide dance parade and dance festival. Additional programs include education outreach and artistic partnerships to aid in increased public awareness and the showcasing of dance on multiple levels.

For more information about Dance Parade New York's programs, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, or to donate, please www.danceparade.org.

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