



*Benchmarks 9.0*  
Abbi LeBaube & Lexie Hoehn (RDC)  
Lumosco Photo



*buildup*  
Hot Crowd  
Lumosco Photo

For Immediate Release

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## ***Once Here, Still Moving***

Theater Wit: 1229 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL 60657

May 28, 29, 30 at 7:30PM; May 31 at 2:30PM

Tickets: [theaterwit.org/tickets/productions/591/performances](https://theaterwit.org/tickets/productions/591/performances)

\$10 - \$35

RESILIENCE Dance Company (St. Louis) and Hot Crowd (Chicago) team up for a split-bill show highlighting how space, place, and time define our embodied histories and shape our present selves. The performance features two original, full-length works: *Benchmarks 9.0* by RDC Artistic Director Emily Haussler (48min), and *buildup*, by Hot Crowd Co-Directors Brittany Latta McMahon and Devon Lloyd (30min). Both works center the use of a prop to define space - a single green bench or five, moveable windows. Aligned in creative values, both works further draw on contemporary partnering, athletic contemporary-modern techniques, and improvisational play to paint interwoven, abstract narratives. Lastly, both pieces are rich with fresh collaboration - Hot Crowd pulling in poet, Lidia Nickels, to inspire movement and RESILIENCE working with Nina Ganci (Skif International) to bridge worlds of experience through costume. The dancers' artistic and technical skills are on full display as key creative collaborators in both processes.

Following the St. Louis premiere on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater, Will Brighton (St. Louis Dance HQ) highlighted the "staggering inventiveness" and "breathtaking levels of physical and creative risk" in *Benchmarks 9.0*, complimenting the "signature athleticism" of Hot Crowd as *buildup* pushes towards something "more cerebral and dream-like".

The Chicago series will conclude the split-bill collaboration, which in total features 19 dancers and 6 performances. Tickets can be purchased through Theater Wit's website for \$35, with discounts for artists, seniors, students, and children under 13. A short reception on stage will follow each performance. More information on each company can be found respectively at [resiliencedancecompany.com](https://resiliencedancecompany.com) and [hotcrowddance.com](https://hotcrowddance.com).