

Lincoln Center presents
**Midsummer
Night Swing**

July 15, 2009
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**DANCE CONTEST TO PAY TRIBUTE TO LINDY HOP
LEGEND FRANKIE MANNING**

***Midsummer Night Swing* ends with on July 25th with the
Harlem Renaissance Orchestra**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Lincoln Center is proud to announce “The Ambassador’s Prize,” a Frankie Manning tribute dance contest, at *Midsummer Night Swing* on Saturday, July 25th, 2009. Two special events will take place: a Lindy Hop dance contest during the band break at 8:30 pm and a group Shim Sham at 9 pm.

The late Frankie Manning is credited with being one of the founding fathers of Lindy Hop. This dance legend created moves, such as the air step, and is easily the most important teacher of authentic Lindy Hop. Frankie Manning had a career dancing in Hollywood movies as well as in ballrooms all across America. After swing died down, he worked for decades for the United States Postal Service. When swing was revived in the 1980s, he was rediscovered and made appearances around the world. Mr. Manning passed away in April 2009, shortly before a multi-day festival celebrating his 95th birthday that was attended by thousands of international swing dance aficionados.

The evening will begin with a dance lesson led by Margaret Batiuchok, founder of the New York Swing Dance Society, teaching the Shim Sham, one of Frankie's signature dances. The Harlem Renaissance Orchestra, with special guest Houston Person, will perform live until 10 pm. In addition to the dance contest, they will pay tribute to saxophone great and former Swing annual headliner, Illinois Jacquet, whose powerful swing and jump blues remains a favorite of *Midsummer Night Swing* dancers. Jacquet's final live performance was at Lincoln Center shortly before his passing in 2004.

Start practicing because the contest will be judged by a panel of guest judges including Lana Turner, a Swing dancer and long time member of both the New York swing dance community and the Harlem dance community; Carol Scherrick, Illinois Jacquet's widow; Sonny Allen, a Harvest Moon Ball winner from the 1950s; and Margaret Batiuchok. The grand prize includes a pair of season tickets to next year's *Midsummer Night Swing* and two round-trip business class tickets on Amtrak's Acela Express to anywhere on the Northeast Corridor line, which runs from Boston to Washington, DC.

Midsummer Night Swing is located in Damrosch Park on 62nd Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues. To sign up for the dance contest, or for more information, email lindyhop@lincolncenter.org. But hurry, the contest is limited to only the first 20 couples who sign up.

Midsummer Night Swing is made possible in part by grants from Daisy and Paul Soros and Charina Endowment Fund.

Sponsored by American Ballroom Company and Bloomberg.

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Additional support for Midsummer Night Swing 2009 is provided by Amtrak, Nanoosh, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center.

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Midsummer Night Swing is a presentation of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. (LCPA), which serves three primary roles: presenter of superb artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. As a presenter of over 400 events annually, LCPA's programs include *American Songbook*, *Great Performers*, *Lincoln Center Festival*, the *Mostly Mozart Festival*, *Lincoln Center Out of Doors* and *Live From Lincoln Center*. In addition, LCPA is leading a series of major capital projects on behalf of the resident organizations across the campus.

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Programs and artists subject to change.

For information and program updates for *Midsummer Night Swing* visit MidsummerNightSwing.org or call 212-875-5766.