

THE CITY OF **YOUNGSTOWN**TM

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

September 23, 2025 | Office of Special Events, City of Youngstown | mcpenella@youngstownohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Get Ready to Dance for Spooky Season! *Thriller* Flash Mob Coming to

Downtown Youngstown 🕺🍊

Youngstown, OH — September 23, 2025 — Downtown Youngstown is about to come alive... with the sound of the *Thriller*! As part of the *First Fridays, Spooky Season Kickoff Party on Friday, October 3, 2025*, the City of Youngstown invites the community to join in a spine-tingling, toe-tapping Thriller Flash Mob in the Phelps Street Gateway (between Commerce St. & West Federal St.) 🧟 The best part? **It's totally free!**

No experience necessary—bring your best zombie shuffle. Free community rehearsals will be held, and everyone is welcome. Attend one, two, or all three!



Schedule, 📍 All rehearsals held in Phelps Street Gateway, led by Choreographer, Michael Cotton

Friday, September 26 | 6 PM – 8 PM — Rehearsal

Thursday, October 2 | 6 PM – 8 PM — Rehearsal

Friday, October 3 | 7:30 PM — Flash Mob Performance (as part of First Fridays Spooky Season Kickoff Party)



Free Parking is available in the Commerce Street Lot behind 20 Federal Place, making it easy for everyone to join the fun.

"It's playful, it's spooky, and it's for everyone. Whether you've got two left feet or you've been dancing since birth, we want you to come out and be part of this unforgettable night!" - said Clarke-Penella

So grab your friends, practice your zombie walk, and meet us downtown. The dead will rise... and they'll be dancing!

About the Choreographer: Youngstown native **Michael A. Cotton Jr.** is a celebrated dancer, choreographer, and creative director with over 23 years of experience. A true multi-talented artist, he also serves as Dance Teacher and Artistic Director at Chaney High School through the Youngstown City School District's Visual & Performing Arts Department. Michael is the founder of **The MAC Experience LLC (Men Artistically Created)**, a company and ministry dedicated to uplifting Black and Brown

communities through the arts. His mission is to inspire, create safe spaces for expression, and leave a lasting legacy that empowers future generations.

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