

About Harlequin

Some other Activity Customers:



*Broadway Dance Center, New York, NY
Harlequin Activity with hardwood surface*

*Calvary Christian
Academy
Ft Lauderdale, FL
Harlequin
Activity with
Standfast vinyl surface*



*National Dance Institutes of New Mexico
Santa Fe, NM
Harlequin Activity with Cascade vinyl surface*

A brief history of American Harlequin

Established in the United States in 1987, American Harlequin is a subsidiary of British Harlequin, plc in London which has been providing quality dance floors for over three decades.

Among American Harlequin's product line are Allegro™ and Studio™ dance floors which are designed for ballet, jazz, modern and any dances requiring a padded, slip-resistant dance surface. For touring companies we offer Reversible™, as its name suggests, a two sided dance floor which is as easily put down as it is picked up and requires almost no time at all to relax even in the coldest climates. For an all purpose dance or theatrical floor there is Cascade™ or Standfast™, resilient, contract quality floor which may be permanently installed or used in touring. If modern dancing is the only dance being done, we have two options: Studio "B"™ and Tempo™. Line dancing, Irish Dancing and other "hard shoe" dancing can be done on our Fiesta™ flooring. For the tap dance enthusiasts, Tap Tiles™ fill the bill with convenient, easily transportable vinyl squares.

Harlequin provides a wide range of subfloors. The Activity® Sprung Floor System, a sprung floor system which is shock-damped and fully-floating for the ultimate dance experience, WoodSpring™, which incorporates the traditional qualities of original basketweave design with today's technology, and the Harlequin Liberty™ Panel System, a panel system which is easily installed and may be used for touring and in those non-permanent situations where the Activity Sprung Floor System would not be suitable. WoodSpring, The Activity Sprung Floor System, and the panel systems have been installed with great success for many years.

For stage, television and motion picture performers as well as exhibitors, Harlequin has a complete line of display vinyl flooring to suit every occasion. Whether it is a trade show or society wedding, there is always something in the product line you'll find appropriate. Television stations nationwide are already enjoying TV Tiles as are variety shows and motion picture stages.

We haven't forgotten the home studio! Many of Harlequin's valued customers have made dance floor purchases for garage or basement studios and these customers are as important to us as metropolitan ballet companies. We have a floor to satisfy every need.

Broadway Dance photo courtesy of Broadway Dance Center; Calvary Christian Academy photo courtesy of Calvary Christian Academy, National Dance Institutes photo by InSight Foto,

American Harlequin Corporation
1531 Glen Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057
Toll Free 800-642-6440 or 856-234-5505 - Fax 856-231-4403
dance@harlequinfloors.com - www.harlequinfloors.com

HARLEQUIN
The world dances on Harlequin floors®



PHILADELPHIA LONDON PARIS LOS ANGELES SYDNEY HONG KONG LUXEMBOURG FORT WORTH

FAQ

Answers to commonly asked questions about Harlequin floors

1. How did a sprung floor get its name?

There are no springs! Actually, sprung floors used to have springs! In the late 1940s after WWII (WORLD WAR II), ballroom dancers looked for a floor with “give” and the answer was flooring made with coil or leaf springs. However, it was far too bouncy for ballet or contemporary artistic dance. In the last fifty years, metal springs have largely given way to resilient blocks or pads made of rubber or polymers, which have become the standard for constructing sprung floors.

2. I need a sprung floor in my studio, but I am in a lease situation, so I can't install a permanent floor. What are my options?

There are several “portable” or non-permanent options available depending upon the type of dance you do. First, if you have a multipurpose studio, you could use Harlequin Liberty™ sprung panels. These are interlocking, pre-manufactured panels which are covered by a vinyl surface to offer a sprung floor for temporary locations. If no percussive (tap, Flamenco, Irish, etc) dance is done, Harlequin's Allegro™ vinyl is a thick, foam-backed floor which creates a “semi-sprung” surface and can be pulled up later and moved to a new location.

3. What's so special about a sprung floor and why do I need one?

Primarily, the safety and health of your dancers is the most important reason for a sprung floor. Its cushioned effect on the body's joints can prevent shin splints and ankle injuries; but it also builds confidence – the confidence to glide through the air knowing that your landing will be soft and uneventful.

4. Who will install my sprung floor?

Harlequin's Contracts Division installs all of our WoodSpring™ and Activity® floor systems. Our Liberty™ panels can be user-installed, or if you need help, our Contracts Division can install those as well. It all depends upon your budget.

Harlequin's Activity and Studio B Make the Grade at New Trier

Background: New Trier Township High School is a preeminent educational facility with two campuses located in Winnetka and Northfield, Ill. Understanding the importance of providing its 4,000 students with a well rounded high school experience that extends beyond the traditional academics of English, math, science and social studies, the High School encourages students to pursue personal passions within a classroom setting. New Trier's Northfield campus, where more than 1000 freshmen attend, affords students the opportunity to participate in unique curriculum that ranges from modern dance to self defense.

Though not specifically a performing arts high school, New Trier has nurtured many Hollywood legends and rising stars including Ann Margaret, Charlton Heston, Rainn Wilson [of NBC's "The Office"], and actress Virginia Madsen. To continue encouraging students' creativity, New Trier turned to American Harlequin to fulfill its flooring needs. In search of a floor that would support a variety of activities, including modern dance, yoga and self-defense classes, New Trier selected Harlequin's Activity® Sprung Floor Systems and Studio B as its flooring combination of choice.

Challenge: As New Trier's curriculum features an array of rigorous activities, the flooring needed to be versatile to accommodate such different physical requirements. From slip resistance to cushioning for joint support, the flooring also needed to provide the safest conditions for the school's active, young students as they practice dance or self-defense techniques on the floor.

Solution: Harlequin provided its Activity Sprung Floor System with the complementing Studio B surface to accommodate New Trier's need for a safe, supportive and versatile installation. Sporting a revolutionary triple "sandwich" composite construction, Activity provides the teenage pupils at New Trier with flooring that is both shock-absorbing and easy on the joints, regardless of the activity.

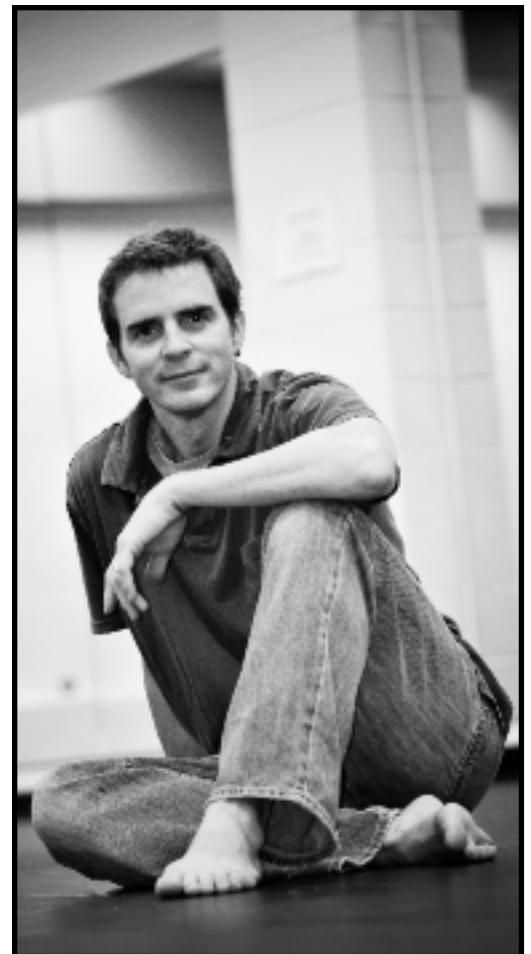
The complementing Studio B supplies the blossoming performers with a slip-resistant, embossed surface allowing for more freedom of movement and expression. The flooring also contains bactericidal properties that protect students from lingering germs often found on surfaces on high school campuses.

Additional Information: Harlequin's Activity Sprung Floor System is a permanently installed sprung floor system that completely eliminates the need for metal springs and rubber pads. The flooring can be laid on most any surfaces. Shock-dampened to avoid a "trampoline" effect, and combining area and point elasticity to offer identical characteristics across the whole floor, Activity is ideal for reducing injury risk. The floor system can be covered with a variety of surfaces from the Harlequin range, including Studio B™, Studio™, Cascade™, Fiesta™, Tempo™, Standfast™, or hardwood.

Extremely resistant to wear and tear, and featuring a firm, cushioned foam backing, Studio B drastically reduces the chance of injury. Easy to install, the flooring can be rolled out instantly and laid flat with seams absolutely straight.

To learn more about Activity, Studio B, or other Harlequin flooring, please call toll free 800-642-6440 or visit Harlequin's Web site www.harlequinfloors.com.

**Christopher Rutt
Artistic Director
New Trier High School
Winnetka, IL**



All photos courtesy of New Trier High School

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For free samples,
information or assistance
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