

JAN BARTOSZEK

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Jan Bartoszek is the founder and artistic director of Hedwig Dances, a Chicago-based contemporary dance theater ensemble. Throughout her career, she has fostered a spirit of collaboration with other artists; merging choreography, objects, media, text and music to create dances that resonate with emotional complexity and depth.

Ms. Bartoszek has choreographed over 65 dances in her career that critics have described as "intelligent, accomplished, moving" (Chicago Tribune) and "poignantly human" (Chicago Reader). These dances have been presented in national performance venues and internationally in Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, Brazil and Canada. In 2014, she received a National Performance Network Creation Fund Grant to develop and tour Trade Winds, a dance collaboration between Hedwig Dances and the Havana-based contemporary dance company DanzAbierta. She has garnered numerous choreography fellowships including one from the National Endowment for the Arts and eight from the Illinois Arts Council. The Chicago Dance Coalition granted her a Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Dance Community for "keeping the spirit and vision of MoMing alive through her work at the Chicago Cultural Center, serving as an educator, mentor, presenter, administrator, and promoter of dance in the city with inspirational excellence." Today's Chicago Woman included her in "100 Women Making A Difference" for her contribution to Chicago's cultural landscape. She was one of twelve Chicago dance artists selected to participate in the Regional Dance Development Initiative sponsored by NEFA and the Chicago Dancemakers Forum.

Her choreography credits include work in theater for Steppenwolf, Northlight, Live Bait, Court, as well as choreographing and assisting in work by director Ping Chong; and, opera (Dead Birds: A War Ritual) with composer William Harper and director D.W. Moffet. She has written, directed and choreographed four dance shows specifically designed for young audiences that have been performed throughout the Midwest in schools, museums and cultural centers.

As a dancer, Jan Bartoszek toured nationally and internationally with Ping Chong & Company performing in BAM's Next Wave Festival; Montreal's Festival TransAmeriques; and at the Teatro Goldoni for the Venice Carnivale Festival: and, with the Charlie Vernon Performance Company at the American Dance Festival,; Dance Theater Workshop (NYC); and, the Walker Arts Center (Minneapolis), among many others.

Ms. Bartoszek has served on the Advisory Board of the Arts & Business Council of Chicago, the Board of the Chicago Dance Coalition, and dance panels for the Illinois Arts Council and the Oregon Arts Commission. From 1974 until its closure in 1990, she was an integral player in the fertile milieu of MoMing Dance & Arts Center, Chicago's legendary performance center and school for contemporary dance, where she taught, choreographed, performed and studied dance.

She has also taught dance at Northwestern University, the School of the Art Institute/Chicago, Roosevelt University, and the University of Chicago. Ms. Bartoszek has led four dance tours to Cuba (2012-2015) and one to Germany (2014).

Under the administration of Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Lois Weisberg, Ms. Bartoszek, along with her dancers and staff, established an extensive program of dance performance and education as the Dance Company-In-Residence at the Chicago Cultural Center (January 1992 to December 2011). The dance residency served as a laboratory for the development of new dance work and a showcase for Ms. Bartoszek's choreography.