

Rush Johnston, B.F.A.

Brooklyn, NY, 11210

rushjdance@gmail.com

www.rushjohnston.com

EDUCATION

M.F.A. <i>(in progress)</i>	Dance	University of Maryland/ College Park, MD	2029
B.F.A.	Dance, Directed Studies Minor: <i>Art History with a concentration in Islamic Art History</i>	Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University/ Baltimore, MD	2022
High School Diploma	Dance, <i>Recipient of Honors Diploma</i>	South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities/ Greenville, SC	2018

Additional Professional Training: ATLAS Program at ImPulsTanz (2022), ACDA Dance and Queer Embodiment (2021), Dance, Shout Outs & Work/Play: Self and the BIPOC Ensemble (2021), A.I.M. Summer Intensive with Kyle Abraham (2020), Gibney Summer Dance Intensive for Peabody Conservatory (2020), Jacob Jonas The Company Digital Intensive (2020), Archcore 40 with Jennifer Archibald (2019), Broadway Dreams Summer Intensive (2017), South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Summer Dance Intensive (2014)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

In the field

2021-present Kaleid Dance Collective/New York, NY
Founder, Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer

Kaleid Dance Collective is the centralizing body for my creative works. Centering around my experiences as a queer, trans, Native, and disabled artist, Kaleid seeks to break barriers, start conversations, and provide education around the experiences of multiply-marginalized individuals residing in Lenapehoking, currently known as New York City. Kaleid is an activist group as much as it is a dance theater collective, and it seeks to provide resources alongside interdisciplinary art to create transformation within the communities it aligns with.

2026	THAT SHOW <i>2026-2027 Guest Curator</i>	
2025	Cultivating Queer Disabled Visions Residency with Live Art Ireland/ Borrisokane, Ireland <i>Resident Artist</i>	<i>Mycelial Bonds: A new way of imagining queer dance and disability</i>
2025-present	The Dance Enthusiast <i>Staff Writer</i>	
2025-present	Julia Asher/ New York City, NY <i>Rehearsal Director, Performer</i>	<i>Works in Progress</i>
2025-present	Griffin Lockette/ New York City, NY <i>Performer, Choreographic Collaborator</i>	<i>Together, Anew; Prelude</i>
2025	Chloe Sonnet Brown/ New York City, NY <i>Performer, Choreographic Collaborator</i>	<i>Out of My Mind</i>
2023-2025	ZCO Dance Project/ New York City, NY <i>Performer, Choreographic Collaborator</i>	<i>CUNY Dance Initiative, Neurobond</i>
2024-2026	Dance Parade and Festival/ New York City, NY <i>Parade Programming Lead, Curation Committee Chair, Dancer Manager</i>	
2024-present	Hunter College Dance Department/ New York City, NY <i>Administrative Coordinator, Guest Artist</i>	
2023-2024	Lucia Gaglirdone/ New York City, NY <i>Performer, Choreographic Collaborator</i>	<i>WANTING</i>
2023-2024	Cara Hagan/ New York City, NY <i>Performer, Research Collaborator</i>	<i>In Process</i>
2023	Lou Sydel/ New York City, NY <i>Performer</i>	<i>waiting/pointing</i>

2023	Lucia Gagliardone/ New York City, NY <i>Performer, Choreographic Collaborator</i>	<i>while i was home growing</i>
2023	Robert Mason/ New York City, NY <i>Performer</i>	<i>Wide Awake</i>
2023	Leigh Ann Gann/ New York City, NY <i>Performer</i>	<i>Work 1, Work 2</i>
2022	Dance & Bmore Ensemble/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2021-2022	Peabody Dance Ensemble/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2020	Ballet After Dark/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer, Choreographer</i>	
2019	Seeing the Voice, Hearing the Body/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2018-2022	danahbella DanceWorks/ Baltimore, MD <i>Performer</i>	
2017	Vaughn Newman Dance Company/ Greenville, SC <i>Performer</i>	

CHOREOGRAPHIC BODY OF WORK

2026			
20 min	<i>Prelude</i> (co-choreographed with Griffin Lockette)	Treehouse, Astoria, NY	Summer 2026 premiere
2025			
20 min	<i>Mycelial Bonds: a new way of imagining queer dance and disability</i>	Live Art Ireland	Fall 2025 premiere

Mycelial Bonds is a work in progress that I began during the Cultivating Queer Disabled Visions Residency at Live Art Ireland in November 2025. In this research, I studied the makeup

of mushroom mycelium to cultivate a new understanding of how queer, disabled communities operate not as a root but rather as a mycelial web. I then embodied this research through a set of improvisation scores and set choreography to present this work at the end of the residency. This research is ongoing.

8 min	<u>Dilemma</u> (Work in Progress)	Triskelion Arts, Brooklyn, NY	WIP Showing
16 min	<u>Nostalgia</u> (Work in Progress)	Arts on Site, New York NY	WIP Showing
60 min	<i>Back in Time</i> (site-specific)	Tompkins Square Park, New York, NY	Summer 2025 premiere
20 min	<i>Transverse Harmonium</i>	The New School, New York, NY	Spring 2025 premiere
60 min	<i>Unfettered. Act II. Metamorphosis</i>	Barnard Movement Lab, New York, NY	Spring 2025 premiere

Unfettered is a movement-based interdisciplinary trilogy of works centering around my gender transition and journey into my queer identity. Act II - Metamorphosis premiered in March 2025 on the anniversary of my gender-affirming top surgery. Following a colony of insects, this work used narrative story telling and contemporary dance theatre movement to highlight the experience of transgender individuals as they break from the binary. Unfettered Act III - Who knew it could feel like this? is set to premiere in March 2026 at The Tank in NYC.

2024

5 min	<i>Body</i>	Arts On Site, New York, NY	Winter 2024 premiere
18 min	<u>Until It Gets Dark</u>	The Tank, New York, NY	Fall 2024 premiere
75 min	<u>Where the Violets Bloom</u>	The Tank, New York, NY	Fall 2024 premiere

Where the Violets Bloom is an evening length dance theatre performance that explores queer identity and community through the lens of six New York City dancers. Rather than focusing on the media's portrayal of queerness which often included violence and hatred, this work serves as a love letter to queerness and highlights the joys within queer identity.

60 min	<i>Incantation</i> (site-specific)	Tompkins Square Park	Summer 2024 premiere
--------	------------------------------------	----------------------	----------------------

60 min [Unfettered. Act I. All that's left of my girlhood](#) Barnard Movement Lab, New York, NY Spring 2024 premiere

Unfettered is a movement-based interdisciplinary trilogy of works centering around my gender transition and journey into my queer identity. Act I - All that's left of my girlhood premiered in March of 2024 just weeks before my top surgery. Both ritual and rite of passage, this solo show examined what I was leaving behind as I accepted my transness and stepped into my truest self.

7 min *Seeking Stardust* BAAD!, Bronx, NY Spring 2024 premiere

15 min *you're asking for help.* Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD Spring 2024 premiere

2023

40 min [Keeping Watch](#) The Tank, New York, NY Fall 2023 premiere

Keeping Watch is a one-person dance based show and includes a variety of dance, text, performance art, theater, and more to create a transformative art experience. Throughout the work, Rush vulnerably explores ideas around queerness and mental health, love and heartbreak, life and loss, as well as the politics of poverty and disability.

60 min [The Reckoning](#) Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn, NY Summer 2023 premiere

The Reckoning is a site-specific dance work at the Gowanus Canal commissioned by Spoke The Hub. Grappling with the ongoing climate crisis, LANDBACK, and the responsibility of land stewardship, Rush crafts an immersive experience urging the audience to take action to revive the Earth.

5 min [Breath and Other Held Objects](#) Mark Morris, Brooklyn, NY Spring 2023 premiere

2022

60 min [Making a Mess](#) Motorhouse, Baltimore, MD Spring 2022 premiere

Making a Mess is an installation show that subverts common expectations around concert dance in order to question the systems "fine art" exists within. Additionally, this piece is intently

focused on making concert dance more accessible to a broader range of communities in Baltimore by eliminating barriers related to time, cost, physical ability, and arts literacy.

6 min	<u><i>In My Room</i></u>	Gibney Dance Center, New York, NY	Spring 2022 premiere
-------	--	--------------------------------------	-------------------------

7 min	<u><i>This House Is Not A Home</i></u>	Atlas Performing Arts Center, DC	Spring 2022 premiere
-------	--	-------------------------------------	-------------------------

2021

9 min	<u><i>Whispered Embrace</i></u>	WESTFEST Online	Spring 2021 premiere
-------	---	-----------------	-------------------------

10 min	<u><i>A Day in the Life</i></u>	Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD	Spring 2021 premiere
--------	---	--	-------------------------

2020

11 min	<u><i>THEM.</i></u>	Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD	Fall 2020 premiere
--------	-------------------------------------	--	-----------------------

5 min	<u><i>/dis/connected</i></u>	Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD	Winter 2020 premiere
-------	--	--	-------------------------

4 min	<u><i>Behind These Walls</i></u>	Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD	Winter 2020 premiere
-------	--	--	-------------------------

2019

9 min	<i>Still Life?</i>	KYL/D Studios, Philadelphia, PA	Fall 2019 premiere
-------	--------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------

8 min	<u><i>Zoë Means Life</i></u>	Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD	Fall 2019 premiere
-------	--	--	-----------------------

2018

3 min	<u><i>Nothingness</i></u>	NDEO Conference, San Diego, CA	Fall 2018 premiere
-------	---	-----------------------------------	-----------------------

8 min	<u><i>Small Memory</i></u>	Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD	Fall 2018 premiere
-------	--	--	-----------------------

2017

6 min	<i>Tierra del Fuego</i>	SC Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities, Greenville, SC	Fall 2017 premiere
6 min	<i>Do Something Rhythmic</i>	SC Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities, Greenville, SC	Spring 2017 premiere

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- 2026
Prelude, Co-choreographer, performer, producer
Lil' Park Drag Show, Drag Performer
Re/Visions/ Drag, Drag performer
Superstar Open Set, Drag performer
- 2025
The Study Series, Invited choreographer
WESTFEST, Performer
THAT SHOW, Invited choreographer & performer
NYC Dance Parade and Festival, Invited choreographer & Performer
Colors of Paradise, Performer
NYC Dance Parade and Festival, Invited choreographer & Performer
SlowSHARE, Invited choreographer
Winter Follies by Spoke The Hub, Presented choreographer & performer
Movement Lab at Barnard College, Guest Artist in Residence
- 2024
NYC Dance Parade and Festival, Programming lead and featured choreographer
Transverse Harmonium, Invited choreographer for a thesis concert at the New School
ESTIA Variety Show, Invited choreographer & performer
BAAD! Boogie Down Dance Compilation, Invited choreographer & performer
NYC Dance Parade and Festival, Invited choreographer & Performer
Movement Lab at Barnard College, Guest Artist in Residence
Peabody Alumni Concert, Invited choreographer & performer
Queerness in 2024 exhibition by Brooklyn Community Pride Center, Invited choreographer & performer
The Tank Presents series, Presented Choreographer
SlowSHARE by SlowDANCE, Featured Choreographer
International Human Rights Arts Festival, Invited Choreographer
30-30-30 by Dixon Place Creative Performances, Invited Choreographer

- 2023
- Spark Theatre Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Philly Fringe Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Cannonball Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Pride Fest at the Tank, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Local Produce by Spoke the Hub, *commissioned choreographer & performer*
 - ODDFest, Official Selection for *Facing Shadows*
 - Carolina Muse Arts Jam, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - ESTIA Day Fest 2023, *Invited performer*
 - WESTFEST Dance Festival, *Invited performer*
 - Fertile Ground, *Invited performer*
 - Spark Theatre Festival, *Invited performer*
 - NACHMO Brooklyn, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - UnKemPt Dance Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Mark DeGarmo Virtual Salon Performance Series, *Invited choreographer & performer*
- 2022
- En Axis Dance Alliance Performing Arts Showcase, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - WAXworks Showcase, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Fuck it, I love you by Kat Brown, *durational performer*
 - When Waves Collide Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - ESTIA Day Fest, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Fertile Ground, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - ATLAS International Showing, *Resident choreographer*
 - Inhale Performance Series, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Milwaukee Fringe Festival, *Invited choreographer & performer*
 - Going Dutch Festival, *Invited choreographer*
 - The Hollow: New Beginnings, *choreographer*
 - Senior Year is Gonna Kill Me: The Musical, *choreographer*
 - Peabody Dance Ensemble Showcase, *choreographer & performer*
 - PG County Arts Integration Recording, *Invited performer*
 - Momentum Innovatum Showcase at Peabody Conservatory, *performer*
 - NACHMO DC, *choreographer & performer*
 - Layers V.3 Terre Dance Collective Showcase, *choreographer & performer*
 - Illumination Series Concert with Allegory Dance Theater, *choreographer & performer*
 - iKADA Falling In Dance Festival, *choreographer & performer*
- 2021
- Baltimore Museum of Art, *Guest performer*
 - WESTFEST Dance Festival On-Site and Online, *choreographer*
 - A Prominent Response, *performer & choreographer*
 - Kyle Abraham's "Drive," *soloist & performer*
 - Matthew Cumbie's "Attending," *performer*
 - 50 Years of Philip Glass Celebration, *performer*
 - Danielle Agami's "Calling Glenn," *performer*
 - Viewpoint Concert, *choreographer & dancer*

Beings onto Light Concert, *director & performer*
Marjani Forté-Saunders' "Trouble don't last Always," *soloist & performer*
Ginger's Palace at An Die Musik, *guest soloist & improviser*
Momentum Innovatum Showcase at Peabody Conservatory, *performer*

2020 American College Dance Association's Final Gala, Mid-Atlantic Region, *invited performer*
Peabody Conservatory Preview, *performer & choreographer*
Koresh Artist Showcase, *choreographer & soloist*
National High School Dance Festival, *Internship, Assistant to the Founding Director*
International Dance Festival, *soloist & performer*
Peabody Conservatory Noon:30 Concert, *performer*
JHU Octopodes a cappella ICCA Set, *choreographer*

2019 Momentum Innovatum Showcase at Peabody Conservatory, *performer*
Palm Springs Dance Festival, *performer*
Dance in the Square, *performer*
Yin Yue's "The Warmest Dark," *performer*
Kate Harpootlian's "Transitory Elements," *performer*
Tracy Kofford's "Scorched Earth," *performer*
Jhon Stronks' "The Next Most Elegant Step," *performer*
Diedre Opore Dawkins' "Untitled," *performer*
Ralph Glenmore's "Jazz," *soloist & performer*
Ginger's Palace at The Crown, *guest soloist & improviser*
Peabody Conservatory Preview, *performer & choreographer*
C A D E N C E, *performer*
The Peabody Ballroom Experience with Marquis Clanton, *performer*
Vanity Affair II with Marquis Clanton, *performer*
ArchCore 40 Showcase with Jennifer Archibald, *featured soloist & performer*
Art Connects Baltimore Tour, *choreographer & soloist*
Peabody Dance! Festival, *performer*
Peabody Conservatory Noon:30 Concert, *performer*
Peabody at the Walters, *choreographer & performer*
VIBES Concert, *choreographer*

2018 Peabody Conservatory Preview, *performer & choreographer*
Leonard Bernstein's MASS, *performer*
Jennifer Archibald's "An Artist?," *performer*
Thomas Shoemakers's "Pearls," *performer*
Josée Garant's "Tableau," *performer*
NDEO National Conference Gala, *featured soloist*
National High School Dance Festival Gala Concert, *performer*
"Giselle," *soloist & corps de ballet*

South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Senior Showcase, *choreographer, soloist, performer*
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Spring Showcase, *soloist & performer*
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *soloist & performer*
The Confi-DANCE Project, *Founder & teacher*

- 2017 Tedx Talk "Labels," *performer*
Regional High School Dance Festival in Norfolk, Virginia
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Spring Showcase, *performer*
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *performer*
Tracy Vogt's "We Insist," *performer*
"Esmeralda," *soloist & Pas de Quarte*
"Magical Gardens of Naina," *corps de ballet*
- 2016 South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Spring Showcase, *performer*
Tracy Vogt's "On The Wire," *performer*
Tracy Vogt's "When the Light Gets In," *performer*
"Paquita," *corps de ballet*
"Polovtsian Dances (Prince Igor)," *soloist*
South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *performer*
- 2015 South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Fall Showcase, *performer*
"Dance of the Knights", *demi-soloist*
"Hairspray," the musical, *choreographer*
Tracy Vogt's "Impulse," *performer*
- 2014 South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities' Summer Showcase, *soloist & performer*

WRITING EXPERIENCE

Ongoing Writing and Editing Work

- 2026-present Writer for Dancing in the District
- 2025-present [Staff Writer for The Dance Enthusiast](#)
- 2022-present [Dance Editor for Carolina Muse Literary and Arts Magazine](#)
-

Additional Writing and Editing Work

- 2026 Authored featured reviews as a staff writer for The Dance Enthusiast:
[IMPRESSIONS: \(VACA\) Valentina Baché's "Dog God//Germ Angels"](#)
[Presented by Triskelion Arts](#)
[IMPRESSIONS: AXIS Dance in "Patterns" at Lincoln Center's Big Umbrella Festival 2026](#)
- 2025 Authored featured reviews as a staff writer for The Dance Enthusiast:
[IMPRESSIONS: "THAT SHOW \(long form\)" at Judson Memorial Church](#)
[IMPRESSIONS: Kinetic Light in "The Next TiMes" at New York Live Arts](#)
[IMPRESSIONS: Indigenous Enterprise Dances Their Story in "Still Here" at The Joyce Theater](#)
[IMPRESSIONS: Gibney Company's 2025 Season at The Joyce Theater](#)
Authored audience dance reviews on The Dance Enthusiast:
[Middle Child Dance Theatre and Mud Movement Present: PLAY DATE](#)
[Rogue Wave presents "\(my battery is low\) and it's getting dark"](#)
[Queering the Divine: An Evening with Body Artifacts](#)
["This is: SARAİKATIA"](#)
Accepted to Y'ALL magazine for poem "Homeland"
February reader at the writer salon series hosted by The Living Room Zine
- 2024 Winner of the 2024 Audience Review Contest by The Dance Enthusiast
Featured reader at the Personal Pizza Party Poetry Night in July 2024
Read at the ESTIA Variety Show in May 2024
Authored audience dance reviews on The Dance Enthusiast:
["Have You Seen THAT SHOW? A Hub for Movement-based Performance Art in NYC"](#)
["Moving Forward, Looking Back: The Mercy Velvet Project"](#)
["The Power of Perspective: Finleigh Zack Dance"](#)
["Coming Home: ESTIA Day Fest 2024"](#)

[“Chutzpah Dance Presents ‘Insatiable Odds’”](#)

- 2023 Published in Pinky Thinker Press [Issue 8](#): Dance film “Facing Shadows” and poem “Forbidden Fruit”
Authored dance reviews on The Dance Enthusiast:
[“Another Meaningful Moment”](#)
[“The Hand You’re Dealt \(excerpt I\)”](#)
[“The Hollow”](#)
[“Rogue Wave presents ‘Bouquet’](#)
Published on Nightingale and Sparrow micropoem contest Issue 17: Crystalline for poem “Icicles”
- 2022 Published [“Explosive Art: An Inside Look at the Creation of Rush Johnston’s Making a Mess”](#) on the Creative Wire by Peabody Institute
Published in Carolina Muse Literary and Arts Magazine [Volume II Issue IV](#):
Dance “At Last” and poems “Yesterday’s Coffee” and “The Watchtower”

DANCE FILM EXPERIENCE

- 2024 [SPLICE](#) director & producer
- 2022 *The Conductor* Directed by Bernadette Wegenstein, dancer
- 2021 [Ellipse](#) in collaboration with Ginger’s Palace, dancer and choreographer
[Facing Shadows](#) in collaboration with Depression Dance Project, producer
- 2020 *Scattered. Place.* Directed by Katherine Helen Fisher *dancer*
Cracked director, choreographer, & dancer
The Crying Room director, choreographer, & dancer
- 2019 [Ever and Anon](#) director

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2024 Winner of the Audience Review Contest 2024 for The Dance Enthusiast
- 2023 SC Arts Commission Emerging Artist Grant for dance film “SPLICE,” \$1,800
Gibney Disabled Dancer Space Grant
MADE in the Garden Artist in Residence
- 2022 Peabody Career Development Grant for Dance Film \$350

- 2021 LAUNCH Grant Recipient for “Making a Mess,” \$5,000
 Peabody Career Development Grant for “Making a Mess,” \$1,000
 Maryland Dance Association Grant for “Making a Mess,” \$800
 National Honor Society for Dance Arts Graduate with Honors
- 2019 Dare to Dance In Public Film Festival Honorable Mention and REDCAT premiere for “Ever and Anon”
- 2018 Peabody Conservatory Merit Scholarship \$50,000
 Honorable Mention Recipient for the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership, and Academic Achievement Award
 Gold Award Recipient for “The Confi-DANCE Project”
The Confi-DANCE Project is an afterschool dance workshop series to empower low-income youth through creativity and composition.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2026 GATHER workshop series/New York, NY
Dance theatre movement and character work, navigating the NYC dance scene
- 2025 Hunter College, Guest Artist/New York, NY
Industry preparedness, writing about dance
- 2022 ConneXions, Guest Artist/Baltimore, MD
Composition, improv, contemporary
- 2021 Camp Wicosuta, Dance Staff/ Hebron, NH
Yoga, ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, improv, composition
- 2014-2017 Assistant Teacher Fascinating Rhythm Dance Studios/ York, SC

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

200 Hour Yoga Teacher Training

My Vinyasa Practice

2020

ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

- 2021-present
Kaleid Dance Collective, founder and Artistic Director
Through this dance collective I have been self-producing works involving administrative work such as writing contracts, organizing performances, scheduling rehearsals, and fundraising since 2021.
- 2024-present
Hunter College, Administrative Coordinator for the Dance Department
At Hunter College I work in the Dance Department overseeing all of the administrative tasks of the department including budgets, schedules, coordination of guest artists, onboarding of faculty and staff, and managing a direct report assistant.
- 2023-present
Dance Parade NY, Parade Programming Lead, Curation Committee Chair, and Dancer Manager
As the Parade Programming Lead, I communicate with over 100 individual Parade Group Coordinators to ensure a smooth parade in mid-May every year. I also chair the Curation Committee, in which I oversee and train a group of curators to build our parade line up and ensure diversity and equity between groups. Finally, as the Dancer Manager, I am onsite on parade day coordinating the order of the parade groups at the formation area.
- 2023
Dance Matters NYC administrative staff
I worked as the front desk administrator for Queens-based dance studio Dance Matters where I registered students, communicated with parents, organized teacher schedules, and performed additional clerical tasks.
- 2019-2022
Peabody Conservatory, Student Administrator for the Dance Department
I worked as the assistant to the Dance Department Chair to assist with running social media, trouble shooting zoom sessions during the pandemic, kept inventory on costumes, and performed additional tasks as needed.