

Rivkah French

Choreographer

Rivkah French
1120 Capron St
Houston, TX 77020

(713) 449-8375
rivkahfrench@gmail.com

Skills

Contemporary Dance Choreography, Directing, Dance performance, Sound Design, Filmmaking

Dance instruction for at-risk youth and adults

LGBTQ+ Social Practice

Non-profit executive management

Leader in Queer Dance Theory research and development

Education

University of Houston Dance Department, Houston Metropolitan Dance Center, Paul Taylor School of Dance, Martha Graham School, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, American Dance Festival

Areas of study: Modern, Ballet, Jazz, African, Butoh, Ballroom, Tap, Gymnastics, Hip Hop, Folk dance

Houston Arts Alliance Incubator Program: a 3 year immersive program for developing successful non-profit managing skills

Accomplishments

- Performed in, choreographed, and/or directed over fifty full-length performances and 10 distinct dance for film projects
- Founding Artistic Director of non-profit FrenetiCore Dance from 2003-2016
- Built and managed Frenetic Theater from 2007-2016, a 100 seat black box theater in Houston's historic East End
Founded and produced the Houston Fringe Festival from 2008-2016, hosting local, national and international artists
Taught dance to adults, teens, children, and underserved populations from 2002-present
- Received Individual Artist grants from Houston Arts Alliance in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2018, 2019, 2020 and led multiple individual project crowd-funding campaigns, totalling over \$200,000
- Obtained numerous non-profit grants from government and philanthropic foundations since 2004 totalling over \$350,000
- Named as one of Houston Press's 100 Creatives in 2012, awarded Top 10 Choreographers in 2013 and Top 10 Dance Companies in 2014; Houston's 'Favorite Dancer' by Outsmart Magazine in 2022
Founded and directed FrenetiKids from 2008-2012, a free after-school dance/theater program for at-risk children
- Partnered with Children's Prison Arts Project to bring movement to incarcerated youth from 2013-2014
- Taught dance classes to homeless LGBTQ+ teens at the Grace Place homeless outreach center in 2015
- Recognized by Houston area Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2017 for exemplary volunteer work with the

- organization
- Acknowledged by University of Houston's LGBTQ+ Center in 2019 for exemplary volunteer work with the organization

Press Reviews & Feature Stories: 2007-present

Houstonia Magazine, CultureMap, Spectrum South, Houston Chronicle, Dance Source Houston, Outsmart Magazine, Houston Press Magazine, Arts + Culture Texas, Broadway World, Houston Citybook, Shoutout HTX, Voyage Houston

Recent Choreographic and Social Practice Commissions

2023

- Submitted plans to City of Houston for construction of a new arts center in 5th Ward
- Commissioned by Staging Solutions to create a new original dance work in Las Vegas
- Presented a series of DIY Filmmaking Workshops for community members and local businesses
- Received a City's Initiative Grant from Houston Arts Alliance for a new VR dance work 'GAZE'
- Led a series of movement and music classes for elders at 5th Ward's Peavy Senior Center
- Commissioned by Blaffer Gallery to present a multi-disciplinary event with live music, dance, poetry, and drag in conjunction with visual art exhibitions
- Presented Pink Carpet Resistance - A Celebration of Trans Artists, with support from Houston Arts Alliance

2022

- Commissioned by The Orange Show for Visionary Art to create a new, original dance work set to Beyonce's music
- Presented a free community event at Smither Park featuring Houston's Poet Laureate Outspoken Bean with live music, hip hop dance, and visual art
- Commissioned by The Houston LGBTQ+ Caucus Pillars of Pride event to present an audience-interactive dance, with Annise Parker present
- Led a series of 18 queer-positive movement classes for the public at Capron Studio
- Commissioned by Studio Sassafras to create a new original dance work 'From the Ground Up'
- Produced Houston's first LGBTQ+ Camp at Lake Houston Wilderness Park
- Awarded Houston's 'Favorite Local Dancer' by Outsmart Magazine

2021

- Commissioned by the Blaffer Art Museum to curate 'A Time for Action: Experiments in Interdisciplinary Performance' festival
- Awarded a Dance Source Houston Spark Grant award for 'Dragged Alive' workshop and performance series
- Commissioned to premiere an original collaborative dance work with choreographer Isabella Vik for Dance Source Houston's Mind the Gap
- Chosen as a featured performer, curator, and collaborator by Joy Harris's 'Possessing a Common Logic' series supported by Houston Arts Alliance
- Awarded a Mayor's City Initiative Grant award for 'Dragged Alive' workshop and performance series

2020

- Awarded a Midtown Arts Foundation grant for Concrete Flow, a Hip Hop-inspired dance film celebrating Houston's mural art
- Awarded a Houston Arts Alliance SACI grant for Concrete Flow, a hip hop-inspired dance film celebrating Houston's mural art
- Awarded a Houston Arts Alliance City's Initiative grant for Blending, an original LGBTQ-themed duet dancework
- Commissioned to premiere the duet Blending for Dance Source Houston's Mind the Gap

2019

- Awarded a Dance Source Houston Artist-in-Residency for the 2019-2020 season
- Commissioned by Good Trouble Makers to lead a series of Queer Dance workshops in Los Angeles, CA and collaborate with local LA choreographers to create a new dance work
- Commissioned by Houston Arts Alliance to create the first local LGBTQ+ Art Camp
- Commissioned by the Turrell Skyspace at Rice University to create Bodies of Light, an original site-specific, multimedia Genderqueer dance work
- Commissioned by the Contemporary Art Museum Houston to produce an original public dance performance in collaboration with the Stonewall 50th Anniversary exhibition
- Commissioned by Houston's Classical Theatre Company to create original, queer-positive choreography for their production of Lysistrata

2018

- Commissioned by Houston Center for Photography to create an original dance work in collaboration with Fumi Ishino's Rowing a Tetrapod exhibition
- Awarded a HIVE Residency at the Houston Ballet
- Commissioned by University of Houston Dance Dept. to create and lead a Queer Dance Workshop

2017

- Commissioned by Station Museum of Contemporary Art to curate and create two evenings of politically-themed poetry and dance in collaboration with the Andres Serrano Torture exhibition
- Commissioned by Rice University Dance Theatre to create Rise, an original choreographic work

**Choreography
and
Performance
Credits**

September 2023	<i>Pink Carpet Resistance - A Celebration of Trans Artists Numbers</i>	Director, Producer
August 2023	<i>5th Ward Free DIY Film Workshops and Screening</i> The DeLuxe Theater	Director, Producer
August 2023	<i>GAZE Dance Film Premiere</i> The DeLuxe Theater	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
July 2023	<i>Senior Citizen Music & Movement Workshops and Performance</i> Peavy Center	Director, Producer
May 2023	<i>Unbound Work in Progress</i> Staging Solutions, Las Vegas	Director, Choreographer
April 2023	<i>Twisting Through Secrets</i> Blaffer Art Museum	Curator, Choreographer, Dancer
November 2022	<i>The Ecstasy</i> The Orange Show for Visionary Art	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
October 2022	<i>Flesh and Bones: An Expansive Experience with Outspoken Bean</i> Smither Park	Producer, Curator, Host
Jan-June 2022	<i>Bi-weekly Queer-positive movement classes</i> Capron Studio	Teacher, Choreographer
June 2022	<i>LGBTQ+ Caucus Pillars of Pride</i> MATCH Houston	Choreographer, Dancer
May 2022	<i>From the Ground Up: A Visual Wonderland</i> Studio Sassafras	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
May 2022	<i>Houston Queer Camp</i> Lake Houston Wilderness Park	Producer, Workshop Leader
December 2021	<i>Dragged Alive Presents 'Best of Houston' Performance</i> Midtown Arts Theater Center Houston	Curator, Producer
November 2021	<i>Remote Viewing at Mind the Gap Presented by DSH</i> Midtown Arts Theater Center Houston	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
September 2021	<i>Dragged Alive Boot Camp Graduation Performance</i> Pearl Bar Houston	Producer, Performer
June 2021	<i>Dragged Alive Drag Boot Camp Workshops</i> Capron Studio	Curator, Producer
May 2021	<i>Blaffer Art Museum's 'A Time for Action: Experiments in Interdisciplinary Performance' festival</i> University of Houston Dudley Recital Hall	Curator, Choreographer, Dancer
May 2021	<i>Possessing a Common Logic: Order of Flo</i> Joy Harris Studio	Curator, Choreographer, Dancer
March 2020	<i>Concrete Flow</i> Dance film filmed in front of 5 Houston murals	Director, Choreographer, Dancer

January 2020	<i>Blending</i>		Director, Choreographer, Dancer
Dance Source Houston's Mind the Gap at MATCH Theater			
October 2019	<i>Lysistrata</i>		Choreographer
Deluxe Theater	Classical Theatre Company		
August 2019	<i>Pretty Damn Magic</i>		
Secret Midtown Location	DinoLion with Choreographer Lynsey Piesinger		Dancer, Choreographer
May 2019	<i>Up Rising: A Night of Dance Commemorating Stonewall's 50th Anniversary</i>		
Contemporary Art Museum Houston			Curator, Director, Choreographer
April 2019	<i>Bodies of Light</i>		
The Glass Crescent			Director, Choreographer, Dancer
December 2018	<i>Dancing a Tetrapod</i>		
Houston Center for Photography			Director, Choreographer, Dancer
November 2018	<i>Bodies of Light Preview</i>		
The Glass Crescent			Director, Choreographer, Dancer
November 2017	<i>Rise</i>		
Rice University	Rice University Dance Theatre		Guest Choreographer
October 2017	<i>Station Museum Performance Series #2</i>		
Station Museum of Contemporary Art			Curator, Choreographer, Dancer
September 2017	<i>Station Museum Performance Series #1</i>		
Station Museum of Contemporary Art			Curator, Choreographer, Dancer
January 2017	<i>Choreographers X6</i>		
Jewish Community Center	Ash Danceworks		Director, Choreographer
October 2016	<i>BEETHOVEN RECNSTRCTD</i>		
Match Box Two	Ash Danceworks		Director, Choreographer, Producer
April 2016	<i>Heaven: A Dance on Film</i>		
Frenetic Theater	FrenetiCore Dance		Director, Choreographer, Dancer
February 2016	<i>Lovah Dance</i>		
Frenetic Theater	FrenetiCore Dance		Director, Choreographer, Dancer
September 2015	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater, The Barn, SHFL	FrenetiCore Dance		Producer, Curator
August 2015	<i>Film Noir</i>		
Wortham Center, Cullen Theater, & UHCL	FrenetiCore with Andrew Karnavas		Director, Choreographer, Dancer
March 2015	<i>Dancing with the Machine</i>		
Off Center in Austin & Frenetic Theater	FrenetiCore Dance		Director, Choreographer, Dancer
October-November 2014	<i>Houston Arts Alliance Transported + Renewed</i>		
East End Silos and Makerspace	FrenetiCore Dance		Director, Choreographer, Dancer
September 2014	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater, The Barn, SHFL	FrenetiCore Dance		Producer, Curator
August 2014	<i>QUENCH</i>		
Frenetic Theater	FrenetiCore Dance		Director, Choreographer, Dancer
March 2014	<i>WIRED: Dance + Technology</i>		

Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
December 2013	<i>There is No Answer as to Why Me, A Dance Tribute to David Rakoff</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
September 2013	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater, Bohemio's, SHFL		FrenetiCore Dance	Producer, Curator
August 2013	<i>The Rite of Summer</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance with Chris Becker	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
March 2013	<i>The Sacred Harp 10 Year Anniversary Reprisal</i>		
Miller Outdoor Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
December 2012	<i>All Hands Meeting - Dance Film</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
August 2012	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Producer, Curator
August 2012	<i>Can't Get Next to You</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
June 2012	<i>Memoriam</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
December 2011	<i>Tenderina</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance with Loueva Smith	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
August 2011	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Producer, Choreographer, Dancer
March 2011	<i>War of the Worlds</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
August 2010	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Producer, Choreographer, Dancer
June 2010	<i>MKUltra</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
November 2009	<i>Dance on Camera Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Curator, Presenter
August 2009	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Producer, Choreographer, Dancer
March 2009	<i>Zomberina! The Movie</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
November 2008	<i>Tetsujin</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Director, Choreographer, Dancer
August 2008	<i>Houston Fringe Festival</i>		
Theater Lab Houston		FrenetiCore Dance	Producer, Choreographer, Dancer
November 2007	<i>Exile</i>		
AvantGarden, Bohemio's, Aurora Picture Show		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
June 2007	<i>Outside</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance and Two Star Symphony	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director

January 2007	<i>Gollem</i>		
Trieste Film Festival in Italy		FrenetiCore Dance	Choreographer, Co-director
June 2006	<i>bedlam</i>		
Frenetic Theater		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
January 2006	<i>Danse Macabre</i>		
Talento Bilingue de Houston		FrenetiCore with Bobbindoctrin Puppet Theater	Dancer, Choreographer
August 2005	<i>Deviations</i>		
Barnevelder Movement/Arts Complex, FrenetiCore Dance with Two Star Symphony			Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
June 2005	<i>Big Range Dance Festival</i>		
Barnevelder Arts Complex		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
March 2005	<i>1984</i>		
Helios		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
June 2004	<i>The Sacred Harp</i>		
Barnevelder Movement/Arts Complex		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
May 2003	<i>America Loves War</i>		
Francisco Studios		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
October 2002	<i>Commodore 64 Tribute</i>		
Numbers		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
May 2002	<i>Freeequal</i>		
Market Square Park		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
November 2001	<i>Centering/Conforming</i>		
Joan Wich Gallery		FrenetiCore Dance with Weihong	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
August 2001	<i>Oni vs. Hive</i>		
NotsuoH		FrenetiCore Dance	Dancer, Choreographer, Co-director
May 2001	<i>Hallelujah Project</i>		
Wortham Theater		Liz Lerman Dance Exchange	Dancer, Choreographer
July 2000	<i>The Conqueror Worm</i>		
NotsuoH		Easy Credit Theater with Robert Thoth	Dancer
January 2000	<i>Jonah and the Whale</i>		
DiverseWorks		Easy Credit Theater with DadaNet	Dancer
November 1999	<i>Art Guys' Suits: The Clothes Make the Man</i>		
Rice Hotel		Easy Credit Theater with the Art Guys and DadaNet	Dancer
July 1999	<i>Bone Machine</i>		
NotsuoH		Easy Credit Theater	Dancer
March 1999	<i>Y2K</i>		
NotsuoH		Easy Credit Theater	Dancer
May 1998	<i>Student Dance Concert</i>		
University of Houston		University of Houston Dance Department	Dancer, Choreographer

