

Regina Klenjoski

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Regina Klenjoski “is a dynamic, graceful and indefatigable presence who appears to have it all.” -Victoria Looseleaf, The Los Angeles Times. She serves as artistic director of Regina Klenjoski Dance Company and director of Dancing with RKDC, the company’s two-state education outreach program that has seen over 24, 000 participants since 1998.

Recognized for her innovative partnering, dynamic energy, and community engagement she has created 48 professional works for RKDC. She has been commissioned by numerous artistic and academic institutions creating 9 new works and setting RKDC repertory. A revered teacher, she has taught modern dance in private, academic and community settings locally and nationally and is currently on the faculty at Wichita State University.

Choreographic Premieres

<i>Nest</i> 17 min, 6 dancers, presented at Mary Jane Teall Theatre, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC’s “Beneath the Surface: Dances from Within”	Nov 2024
<i>In this Moment</i> 10 min, 4 dancers, commissioned by CONVERGE II, Wichita, KS	June 2024
<i>Silhouettes</i> 9 min, duet, presented at The Distillery, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC’s “Duets for my Valentine” 2024	Feb 2024
<i>Rank of Angels</i> 12 min, 9 dancers, commissioned by CONVERGE, Wichita, KS	June 2023
<i>The Golden Apple</i> 99 min, premiere at Newman Performance Hall, Wichita, KS	May 2023
<i>Love Letter</i> 12 min, duet, presented at Crown Uptown Theater, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC’s “Duets for my Valentine” 2023	Feb 2023
<i>The Multiplicity of Us</i> 37 min, quartet, presented at The Lux Ballroom, Wichita, KS	April 2022
<i>Picking Petals</i> 10 min, dance and text projection for live performance, presented at Crown Uptown Theater, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC’s “Duets for my Valentine” 2022	Feb 2022
<i>Familiar Strangers</i> 8 min, Trio presented at Crown Uptown Theater, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC’s “Duets for my Valentine” 2022	Feb 2022
<i>The Space Between</i> 13 min, dance and film collaboration for live performance, presented at Crown Uptown Theater, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC’s “Duets for my Valentine” 2022	Feb 2022
<i>Far From Home Film</i> 70 min, site specific film adaptation of stage performance.	Nov 2022

<i>Dust and Ions</i>	40 minutes, A suite of 7 dances in collaboration with composer Alex Wakim.	Sept 2021
<i>Radical Joy</i>	21 minutes, site specific performance premiering at Wichita Botanica Garden 6,	April 2021
<i>US</i>	5.5 minutes, dance film inspired by the US Capitol riots on Jan 6, 2021. It explores the intensity and depth of emotion we experience in loving someone or something so deeply and how that fire has the potential to ignite or illuminate our focus.	Feb 2021
<i>Anew</i>	4.5 minutes, dance film originally created to grace the grounds of Botanica's gardens for Illuminations, but became a dance film due to Covid restrictions. Set to the wonderful work of Wichita composer Alex Wakim.	Dec 2020
<i>Radical Joy</i>	18 minutes, fall exploration of 'joy' in virtual community workshops for the public and outdoor park performance at Naftzger Park, Wichita KS, featuring original score by composer Mark Fitchett.	Nov 2020
<i>Stronger Together</i>	7.5 minutes dance film inspired by the artistry, grace and strength of dancer Aviance Battles, muralist Kamela Eaton, trailblazer Elizabeth Eckford and mother Christina Jackson.	Mar 2020
<i>Far From Home</i>	90 minutes, West coast premiere at James Armstrong Theatre, Torrance, CA Canceled 2 days prior to performance due to Covid 19 restrictions.	Mar 2020
<i>Conquest</i>	12 minutes, presented at Crown Uptown Theater, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC's winter performance "Duets for my Valentine"	Feb 2020
<i>IMbody</i>	20 minutes, presented at the design studio of Vanya Designs, Wichita, KS as part of RKDC's fall performance "Suite Tooth"	Oct 2019
<i>Far From Home</i>	90 minutes, premiere presented at Wichita Center For Performing Arts, Wichita, KS (included 2 free community workshops for immigrants, open rehearsal and documentary film as research and material for final performance).	May 2019
<i>Dante's Nightmares and Dreams</i>	30 minutes, commissioned by Wichita State University Dance, Wichita, KS	April 2019
<i>Far From Home work-in-progress</i>	15 minutes, presented at Wichita Center For Performing Arts, Wichita, KS (performed to an audience seated on stage with dancers)	Nov 2018
<i>Layers</i>	20 minutes, site specific work that moved through audiences and museum spaces, commissioned by Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS	Aug 2018
<i>The Game is Afoot</i>	12 minutes, presented at James Armstrong Theater, Torrance, CA	March 2018
<i>Inseparable</i>	8 minutes, presented at Center Theatre, Wichita, KS	Nov 2017

<i>Filtered Reality.</i> 45 minutes, site specific performance presented by and at Harvester Arts, Wichita, KS. (included free community performance at Final Friday Art Crawl)	Oct 2017
<i>Lily and the Scorpion</i> 12 minutes, presented by Los Angeles Dance Festival Los Angeles, CA	May 2017
<i>Magnetic</i> 5 minutes, commissioned by Wichita State University Dance, Wichita, KS	Nov 2016
<i>The Good Wife</i> 13 minutes, commissioned by Wichita State University Dance, Wichita, KS	May 2016
<i>Tala</i> 9 minutes, commissioned by Irvine Valley College Dance, Irvine, CA	May 2016
<i>Shatter</i> 5 minutes, commissioned for West High Advanced Dance Company, Torrance, CA	March 2015
<i>Fracture</i> 35 minutes, score by Mark Fitchett, presented by Blurred Borders, San Diego	Sept 2013
<i>Splinter</i> 16 minutes, score by Mark Fitchett, commissioned by Malashock Dance	Oct 2012
<i>One Two Many</i> 12 minutes, score by Mark Fitchett, commissioned by Celebrate Dance 2012	March 2012
<i>The Museum Project: I am From</i> 45 minutes, score by Daniel Gil, presented by Museum of Latin American Art (included 3-month residency with 60 low income students. Created “I am From” dances with poetry and spoken word and performed at MOLAA as well as New City School Peace and Human Rights celebration).	Dec 2011
<i>The Pitch</i> 9 minutes, score by Mark Fitchett, presented by Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation (subsequently performed numerous times in site specific, pop up community performances)	May 2011
<i>Emoticons</i> 13 minutes, score by David Karagianis, commissioned by Celebrate Dance 2011	March 2011
<i>The Crossings</i> 65 minutes, score by Mark Fitchett, James Armstrong Theatre, Torrance, CA	Nov 2009
<i>Captured</i> 18 minutes, score by David Karagianis, commissioned for/by Cal State University LB	Nov 2008
<i>It Feels Like Pitch Black</i> 12 minutes, commissioned by Tennessee Children’s Dance Ensemble, (included documentary film work with local student performers)	March 2008
<i>The Museum Project: Identity</i> 39 minutes, score by Mark Fitchett, presented by Long Beach Museum of Art (included community workshops with local 5 th graders)	Feb 2008
<i>The Museum Project: Triptych, Feet on Concrete</i> 46 minutes, score by Mark Fitchett, presented at Torrance Art Museum. (site-specific audience interactive event)	Nov 2007
<i>The Black Drim</i> 38 minutes, score by VOCO and the Trip Music Ensemble, co-produced by the John Anson Ford Amphitheater	Sept 2006
<i>Hey Lover, Why the Gun?</i> 16 minutes, presented at James Armstrong Theatre	April 2005
<i>La Traviata, Cristian’s Lullaby, Streetscapes, Love Lies Waiting, Original Sin, Dear Mimmy, Three to Tango, To Stand Alone, She Said, Waiting for Solitude, Mon Ami, Weekend</i>	1993- 2005

Warriors, Little Kukla, File Under Lounge, Paired Down, Opus 39, Simple thoughts in passing time, Strawberries, Bananas and Skin, Somewhere From Within

Teaching

- Regina Klenjoski Dance Company, Wichita, KS & Torrance, CA 1993- current
Choreography, Master classes, residencies, community partnerships
- Dancing with RKDC, Torrance, CA 1998- current
Founder, executive/artistic director and teacher
- Dancing with RKDC, Wichita, KS 2018- current
Founder, executive/artistic director and teacher
- Wichita State University, Wichita, KS Jan 2016-current
Lecturer in Modern Dance, Improvisation, Somatics, Guest choreographer
- Newman University, Wichita, KS Jan 2020
Lecturer in Theater Dept: Movement for Actors, Guest choreographer
- Friends University, Wichita, KS February 2021
Guest artist lecturer in modern dance and choreography. Guest choreographer
- Irvine Valley College Irvine, CA February 2016
Guest choreographer
- The University of Kansas; Lawrence, KS Jan 2015
Two week residency; guest lecturer in modern dance & guest choreographer
- California State University; Long Beach, CA 2008-2009, 2013
Lecturer in modern dance and guest choreographer
- Malashock Dance Summer Intensive, San Diego, CA July 2012
Contemporary/modern technique teacher, guest choreographer
- Brockus Dance Project, Los Angeles, CA July 2012
Contemporary/modern technique teacher
- Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles 2004-2006
Guest lecturer in Modern dance and guest artist choreographer
- North High School, Torrance, CA 1999-2001
Dance Program Director and teacher
- Ohio University School of Dance, Athens, Oh; Renaissance High School for the Arts, Long Beach, CA; Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Los Angeles, CA; El Camino College, Torrance, CA; West High School, Torrance, CA; Palos Verdes High School, Palos Verdes, CA; Austin East Performing Arts and Sciences Magnet High School, Knoxville, TN
Master classes in modern technique and/or guest artist choreographer 2002-2010

Performance

- Regina Klenjoski Dance Company, Wichita, KS 1993-current
- Alithea Mime Theater, director Nick Johnson, *guest performer* 2017
- Helios Dance Theatre, Los Angeles, CA, *company member and teacher* 1998-2000
- Zephyr Dance Ensemble, Chicago, IL, *company member and teacher* 1996-1997
- Jan Erkert and Dancers, Chicago, IL, *guest performer* 1997
- Venitia Stifler Dance, Chicago, IL, *company member* 1995-1997

Awards, Honors, Grants

- Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission \$30,500 2020-2023
- Wichita Arts Council \$21,496 2020-2023
- National Endowment for the Arts- Art Works Grant \$35,000 2019, 2022, 2023
- Wichita Arts Council \$4,880 2019
- Mid-America Arts Alliance, Artistic Innovations \$30,000 2018 & 2022
- Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission \$10,000 2018 & 2019
- California Community Foundation \$20,000 2014
- Los Angeles County Arts Commission ~\$95,000 2005-2023
- Center for Cultural Innovation, Torrance Cultural Arts Commission, Arts Council of Long Beach, Durfee Foundation, Bill Graham Foundation, Time Warner, Boeing 2003-2018
- Finalist - Dance Under The Stars Choreography Festival Palm Desert, CA 2011
- 26 Los Angeles Lester Horton Awards and nominations for:
Outstanding Achievement in Choreography, Music for Dance,
Lighting Design, Costume Design, Company Performance,
Male and Female Performance and Outstanding Production of a Festival. 2001-2010
- Ohio University College of Fine Arts Distinguished Alumni Award 2008
- Public Corporation for the Arts Fellow, Long Beach, CA 2003
- City of Torrance Excellence in Arts Award for Service to the Community 2000

- 5 Dance Under the Stars Achievement in Choreography Awards 1998-2004

Affiliations/Memberships

- Dance USA, member 2009-current
- Dance Resource Center, Los Angeles, member 2001-current
- Regina Klenjoski Dance Company, board member 2001-current

Education

- Master of Fine Arts, Summa cum laude, Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA. 2022
Concentration: Choreography and Creative Writing
- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, Magna cum laude, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. 1993.
Concentration: Choreography, performance and teaching.
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Magna cum laude, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. 1993.
Concentration: Business management

References

- John Malashock, Artistic Director at Malashock Dance, San Diego, CA. Phone: 619.260.1622
- Cyrus Jeanette-Parker, Dean, College of the Arts at CSULB. Phone: 562-985-4747
- Andy Vaca, Professor, California State University, Long Beach. Phone: 562.985.1097
- Nick Johnson, Director of Dance, Wichita State University. Phone: 316.686.3640

Biography

Regina Klenjoski is a creator, performer, educator and advocate of contemporary dance. Passionate about the moving body with a thirst for communication through dance, the Macedonian-born choreographer creates deeply personal works that examine our search for intimacy and connection in contemporary society, often through the lens of her Macedonian heritage. She tells stories with character-driven, socially relevant dances that expose our authentic nature and search for truth through seemingly small flashes of humanity.

Recognized by the Los Angeles Times as “one of the most active and ambitious dance makers leading Southland contemporary companies,” she has created 48 works as resident choreographer for Regina Klenjoski Dance Company; the majority of which feature commissioned scores from award-winning Los Angeles composers. Her work is often cited for its innovative partnering, technical athleticism and

dynamic energy and has received numerous awards including four Choreography awards from the prestigious Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival and 26 Lester Horton Dance Award nominations with four awards for achievement in choreography, costume, music and lighting design. She was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma mater, Ohio University, and was the recipient of a Long Beach Public Corporation for the Arts Fellowship and an Excellence in Arts Award from the City of Torrance for her contributions to the community through her “Dancing with RKDC” residency program. RKDC has been awarded numerous grants through their 20 year history. Most notable include a 2019 National Endowment for the Arts grant to tour their work “Far From Home;” a California Community Foundation Grant for strategic planning in 2015 and multiple grants from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, Wichita Arts Council and the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission. Additionally, the company has been awarded Echo Grants from Time Warner, Inc. and grants from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Torrance Cultural Arts Commission, the Arts Council of Long Beach, Durfee Foundation, Center for Cultural Innovation, Bill Graham Foundation, and the Arts Council of Torrance. In 2014, the company received a \$15,000 grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance, being one of only 2 dance companies in the six-state MAAA region to receive the award.

In addition to performing at the Avignon Festival Off in France, Florida State University, New York City Center and various locations in Ohio and Illinois, her work has been presented throughout venues in Southern California including the Martha B Knoebel Theater at CSULB, Museum of Latin American Art, Glendale’s Alex Theater, McCallum Theater in Palm Desert, Center Stage Theater in Santa Barbara, John Anson Ford Amphitheater in Hollywood, Long Beach Museum of Art, Torrance Art Museum, UCLA’s WAC Performance Series, Arts Open House at Cal State Northridge, the Fountain Theater, Carnival: The Choreographer’s Ball at the Key Club, Scripps Collage, Sushi Performance Space in San Diego, the Spectrum Dance Series, Loyola Marymount University, The Brand Library Dance Series, The Palm Desert Amphitheatre, Highways Performance Space, Dance Kaleidoscope Festival, The Invitational Concert at Goldenwest College and yearly at their home base, The James Armstrong Theatre. Her work has been commissioned and performed by professional, commercial and educational institutions including Malashock Dance, Wichita State University, University of Kansas, Irvine Valley College, Chicago’s Next Dance Festival, California State University-Long Beach, Loyola Marymount University, Tennessee Children’s Dance Ensemble, Renaissance High School for the Arts, Palos Verdes High School Dance, Bob Barrett Productions, Zephyr Dance, Colombia College Summer Dance, American Video Artists, Torrance Unified School District, and DePaul University.

Klenjoski’s uncompromising dedication to arts education has led her to create numerous programs for public and private institutions. Most notable is the ongoing residency program she began with the Torrance Cultural Services Division that has seen over 23,000 participants since 1999. The city now

models their artist partnerships after her successful program. Ms. Klenjoski is a sought-after choreographer and teacher and has been guest faculty and choreographer at Wichita State University, Newman University, The University of Kansas, California State University-Long Beach and Loyola Marymount University among others and was the Director of the Dance program at North High School in Torrance. Committed to building community and opportunity among local professional dance artists she created and produced the highly regarded SOLA Contemporary Dance Festival from 2001-2008. The festival received critical acclaim and was nominated by the Lester Horton Award committee for Outstanding Festival six times. Currently, RKDC is in partnership with Senseney Music to offer dance arts education experiences for youth. Dancing with RKDC-Wichita is a non-competitive dance education program that focuses on teaching strong technique, self-expression and concert performing skills in a nurturing environment. Finally, the company is developing two separate arts education programs for K-12 students. In Wichita, the company will present "Dancing through the Ages" assemblies in partnership with Arts Partners that takes young audiences on a journey through the music, visual art, dance and social politics of 5 eras from the 1800's to today. In Torrance, CA the company is developing an in-school creative movement residency for 3rd and 4th graders.

Short bio:

RKDC is a critically acclaimed modern dance company founded in Los Angeles in 1999 and expanded to Wichita, KS in 2014. RKDC has captivated audiences with inventive choreography, fierce athleticism and poetic storytelling through the company's repertory of 39 works which include intimate choreographic studies, dramatic evening-length works, dance film and site-specific installations, all of which have won RKDC accolades from some of California's foremost authorities on dance. In addition to touring and home seasons, RKDC is fiercely dedicated to enriching their home communities by presenting thoughtful, entertaining and challenging repertory through their arts education residencies in KS and CA. Recognized by the Los Angeles Times as "a dynamic, graceful and indefatigable presence who appears to have it all," Ms. Klenjoski's work has been commissioned by numerous university, K-12 and arts organizations across the US and has been recognized with many awards, commissions and grants throughout her 25-year career in dance. A revered teacher, she is currently director of Dancing with RKDC in Torrance, CA and Wichita, KS, a lecturer in dance, somatics and improvisation at Wichita State University and lecturer in Movement for Actors at Newman University.