



The Early Years

1985 founded - 1990

Hedwig Dances' 40th Anniversary Season celebrates four decades of boundary defying dance.

Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director Jan Bartoszek and celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, Hedwig Dances creates, performs, and cultivates contemporary dance theater within communities of audiences, dancers, and artists with the goal of provoking human connection and wonder.

Hedwig Dances engages inquisitive and reflective artists who share a passion for the exchange of ideas, movement experimentation, and theatrical discovery - the serendipitous magic that occurs when minds and bodies are focused on a common purpose. We generate movement from improvisation based on a clear intention. The improvisations lead to studies, and the studies develop into dances through a sifting and editing process.

1985 Jan Bartoszek founded Hedwig Dances as an umbrella for her concert and outreach programs. Hedwig Dances rehearses and performs at MoMing Dance & Arts Center, the performance center and school of dance.





Stepping Up

1991 - 2011

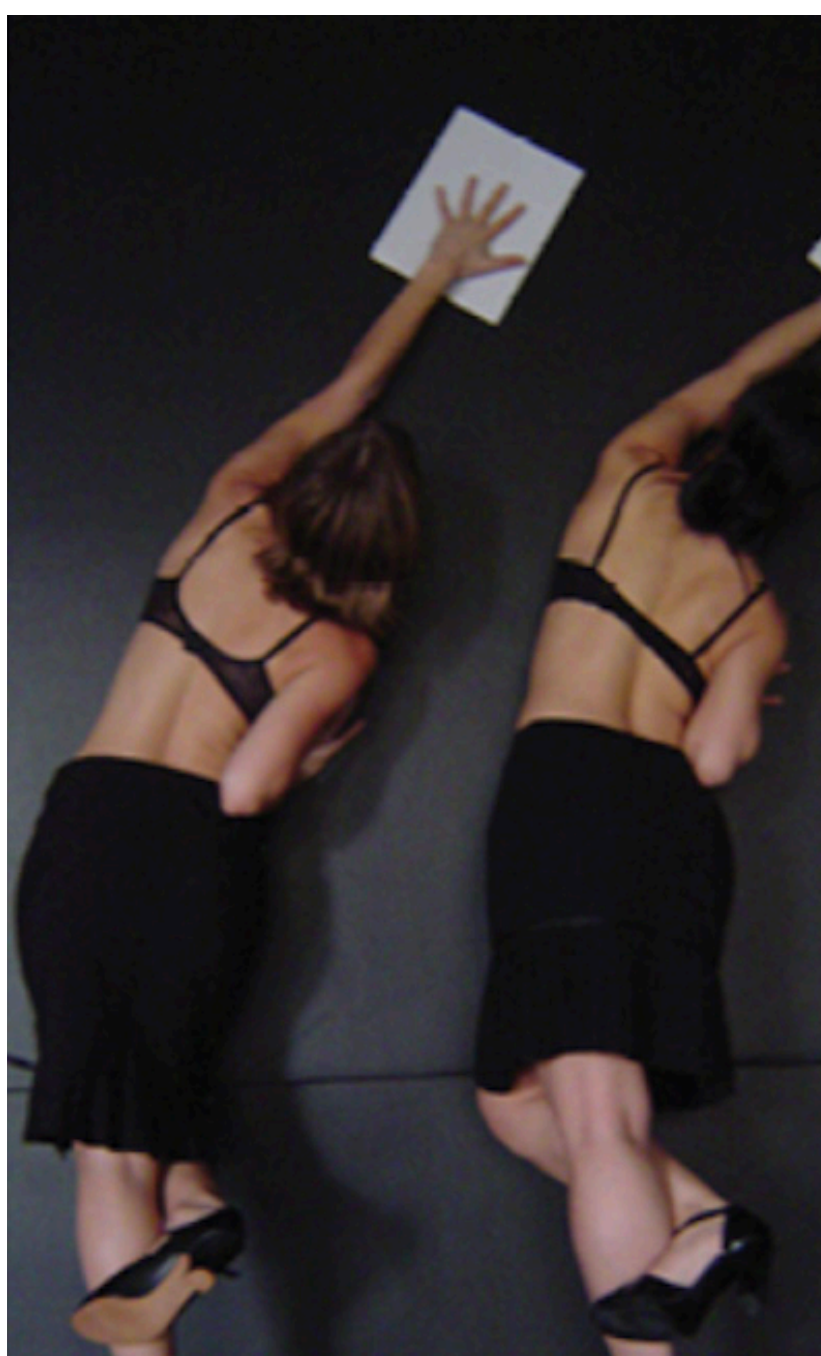
Hedwig Dance begins its residence at the Cultural Center

Along the way, the company has created and performed hundreds of pieces of original repertory, held a twenty year residency at the Chicago Cultural Center, hosted thousands of classes in the community and in public schools, toured internationally to places like Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, and Germany, and is now a resident company at the Ruth Page Center.

From 1992 through 2011 under Jan Bartoszek's direction, Hedwig Dances served as the Dance Company in Residence at the Chicago Cultural Center. During the 20-year residency, Hedwig Dances offered 600 classes and workshops to 8,500 students, plus 250+ performance events serving 30,000 people.

1997 Jan Bartoszek honored with a Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Dance Community by the Chicago Dance Coalition

2000 Jan Bartoszek led an international dance exchange with Danza Libra in Honduras. Artistic Associate Peter Sciscioli traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to teach classes and perform works by Hedwig Dances.



Expanding Horizons

2012-2025

International Tours + Partnerships

Over 40 years, Hedwig Dances has sustained an interest in creating rich visual and aural environments on stage that cast the dancers in a specific time/space. To this end, our company has collaborated with scores of artists - including sculptors, video artists, painters, photographers, costume and set designers and landscape architects - to create sublime immersive landscapes that transport movement into new realms. Our company continues to be engaged in the intersection of movement and objects. Movement transforms objects, animating the inanimate; and, objects lend poetic imagery to movement.

In January 2016, Hedwig became an in residence company of Chicago's Ruth Page Center.



2012-2019 Hedwig Dances developed Touch Tour programs to introduce donors and friends of Hedwig to dance and visual art in Cuba and Germany. The program included:

- * Five trips to Havana, Cuba, two Touch Tours to Germany, Bauhaus Touch Tour to the three sites of the Bauhaus.

2013-2015 Sustained International Collaboration between Jan Bartoszek (Hedwig Dances) and Susana Pous (DanzAbierta/Havana) funded by the MacArthur Foundation International Connections Fund and National Performance Network leading to the development of "Trade Winds/Aires de Cambio." Hedwig worked with Bitter Jester Studios to create a short documentary film about the trip.

2016 Hedwig Dances began a residency at the Ruth Page Center.

2016 Jan Bartoszek participated in NEFA's Regional Dance Development Initiative (RDDI) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, one of 12 Illinois choreographers selected by a jury to convene with the objective of increasing the scope, visibility, and viability of dance activity in the Illinois region.

2016 Jan Bartoszek and production company Bitter Jester Studios received an Emmy Nomination for Hedwig Dances' film for the camera, "Arch of Repose."

2018-2019 Hedwig Dances developed a partnership with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and IIT Institute of Design (ID, originally called the "New Bauhaus") to create "Futura" for the 2019 Bauhaus Centenary. Bauhaus Research Associate Torsten Blume worked with ID graduate students, faculty member Jeffrey Mau, Jason White of Leviathan, and Jan Bartoszek to develop "Fractals," a prologue to Bartoszek's "Futura." Hedwig Dances performed "Futura" at IIT, Aspen Institute "The Making of Modern," and Northwestern University.

2022-2023 Hedwig Dances and Bauhaus Dessau developed an international co-production of "META/MOR/PHOS - A Triadic Fiction," a sequel to Oskar Schlemmer's iconic, ground-breaking "Triadic Ballet." Choreographed by Jan Bartoszek with dramaturgy by Torsten Blume, the work has been performed at the Bauhaus Museum in Dessau and at the Ruth Page Center in Chicago to mark the ballet's 100th anniversary.

2024 See Chicago Dance honored Jan Bartoszek with the SCD Legacy Award, "as an artistic leader who has enriched the community and made a significant and sustained impact on dance in Chicago."

2025 Newcity Magazine names Jan Bartoszek as one of "Players 2025: The 50 People Who Really Perform for Chicago."

