

# SALLY ROUSSE

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## OVERVIEW

- Over 30 years experience as a professional dance artist performing lead roles with European and American dance companies
- Award-winning choreographer and dancer
- Accomplished teacher, director, writer, curator
- Recognized ballet innovator
- Co-founded chamber dance company James Sewell Ballet (JSB) in NYC; transformed JSB from a pick-up company to a full-time international touring organization in Minneapolis
- Articulate champion for the role of dance in education, health care, and philanthropy
- 20 years experience producing and curating choreographic events in artistic and commercial and artistic venues (marketing, booking, development, volunteer coordinator)

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

- 1996-2012** National Endowment for the Arts via JSB, Southern Theater, Walker Art Center  
**2011** Jerome Foundation Travel/Study grant to conduct aesthetic dialogue  
**2010** City Pages' Artist of the Year  
**2010** Artist Initiative Fellowship from the Minnesota State Arts Board  
**2001** McKnight Fellowship for Dancers  
**2002** *trickpony* named #1 Performance of the Year, Minneapolis Star-Tribune  
**1981** McCloud Prize in Dance, St. Paul's School

## COMPANY AFFILIATIONS

- 1990-2013** Co-Founder/Artistic Associate/Dancer: James Sewell Ballet  
**1993-94** New Amsterdam Ballet, Artistic Directors: Martine Van Hamel, Kevin McKenzie  
**1990-91** Royal Ballet of Flanders, Artistic Director: Robert Danvers  
**1989-90** Ballet Chicago, Artistic Director: Daniel Duell  
**1986-89** Garden State Ballet, Artistic Director: Peter Anastos  
**1984-86** Omaha Ballet, Artistic Directors Deborah and Robert Vickery

## GUEST APPEARANCES

Montréal/Minneapolis Échange *Freemartin Twin* (TekBox, '13) • *Quartet* by Tania Gordeeva (Patrick's Cabaret, '13) • *Print Culture* by Rachel Perelmeier (Red Eye Theater, Mpls) • *The Thank You Bar* by Emily Johnson (TPT, Northrop, '10, '11) • *Solo; Quartet* by Laurie Van Wieren (Studio 206, '12) • *Grand Theft Auto* (Bryant Lake Bowl, '11) • *Love Me, Love My Questionable Art* by Mad King Thomas (Bryant Lake Bowl, '09) • *Planes* by Trisha Brown (Walker Art Center, '08) • *Salt* by Vicky Virgin (Bryant Lake Bowl, '08) • *Beyond Ballroom* (Southern Theater, '07) • *Hijack* (Bryant Lake Bowl, '05) • *Four + One* produced by 3-Legged Race with Jan Erkert (Southern Theater, '01) • MN Cable tv.: *Mendelsahn Trio* ('99) • *La Sylphide*, soloist (Belgium tv., '90) • *Cynthia Gregory & Fernando Bujones: Together!* (City Center, NYC, '89) • Industrial Commercials for Cone Textiles and Diabetic Life Drink

- David Howard class-teaching videos (3)

## APPEARANCES AND SERVICE

- Trustee: Sewell Family Foundation, James Sewell Ballet, Minnesota Dance Alliance, DanceMN.org
- Host of 2009 SAGE Awards for Dance
- Curator of Walker Art Center's 2008 Choreographers' Evening
- Curator of JSB's Ballet Works Projects 1994-present
- Author of "Overnight ReViews" Walker Art Center website (since 2007)
- Featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show (1999)
- Panelist: McKnight Foundation; Jerome Foundation, MSAB, Sage Awards

## FEATURED ARTICLES AND MEDIA

*Wall St. Journal* • *New York Times* • Three-Minute Egg (<http://youtu.be/4My-HQ0LamU>) • Ballet Review, "Through the Eyes of a Muse" (<http://www.mnartists.org/article.do?rid=181387>) • *Star Tribune* (<http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/blogs/139584174.html>) • *Pioneer Press* • *City Pages* (<http://www.citypages.com/2009-12-23/news/artists-of-the-year-09/4/>) • *Women's Press, MN Monthly* • *Mpls/St.Paul Magazine* • Walker Blog • *Edible Twin Cities* • *Dance Magazine* (<http://www.dancemagazine.com/reviews/August-2009/Momentum-New-Dance-Works>) • Oprah Winfrey Show (1998).

## TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

- 1985-2013: Ballet Arts Minnesota • Children's Theater • Garden State Ballet • Harvard University • JSB • Macalester College • Minnesota Dance Theatre • Southwest High School • University of Minnesota • Urisinus University
- 2012: Dance Warehouse • JSB • Minnesota Dance Theater
- Established "First Dance" for young dancers (West African, Salsa and contemporary ballet)
- Created Summer Dance Intensives in Red Bank N.J., Burlington, Vt., Minneapolis, MN
- Developed JSB's SmArts (1992) and Young Audience programs for students and academic teachers incorporating Brain Gym®
- Contributor to Thinking Moves®, an interactive video/cd-rom for schools

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- St. Paul's School, in Concord, NH, graduated early, cum laude 1982
- School of American Ballet • Joffrey School • Harkness Ballet • Central Vermont School of Ballet • Intensive Workshop for Professional Dancers with Alonso King
- University of Minnesota: COLA (Institute for Advanced Study) 2008-09
- Professional Instructors: Lirena Branitski, Hijack, James Sewell, Morgan Thorson, Bonnie Mathis, Chris Aiken, David Howard.
- Accepted to Barnard College, New York University and Sarah Lawrence College
- Additional training in Gyrotonics; Contact and Improvisation; Global Somatics

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Accredited in Brain Gym® (1999)
- Accredited in Reiki (2006)
- Aerial and Archery
- Conversant in French

## CHOREOGRAPHY (PARTIAL LISTING)

- 2013 **Bear, Salmon, Dancer, Marshmallow** Tek Box  
*Commissioned by Kathie Goodale*
- 2012 **Freemartin Twins** Tek Box  
*Commissioned by JSB, Montréal/Minneapolis Échange*
- 2010 **Berceuse** O'Shaughnessy Auditorium  
*Commissioned by JSB, live music*
- 2009 **Paramount to My Footage** Southern Theater  
*Commissioned by Walker Art Center and Southern Theater*
- 2009 **Petrouchka** Southern Theater  
*Commissioned by JSB*
- 2007 **PolyVinyl Swan** Walker Art Center Choreographers' Evening
- 2007 **Tutu the Superina: Live Trilogy Redux** Walker Art Center  
*Commissioned for PUSH the Future Conference. Live performance with video based on the animated cartoon series co-created by Rousse and Bill Burnett for Nickelodeon in 1997*
- 2007 **Brahms Duet** Guthrie Theatre, James Sewell Ballet
- 2005 **By the Gypsy River Banks** State Theatre  
*Commissioned by JSB*
- 2004 **Awedville (In collaboration with James Sewell)** Wharton Art Center  
*Commissioned by the Wharton Art Center, Missouri, JSB*
- 2003 **Floorshow (In collaboration with Homer Avila)** Southern Theater  
*Commissioned by 3-Legged Race*
- 2003 **King David** Ted Mann Concert Hall  
*Commissioned by VocalEssence; live music.*
- 2002 **trickpony** Southern Theater  
*Restaged with additional choreography for the Old American Canning Factory, Brooklyn ('05); the Bottling House ('07); Tek Box and Mass Moca ('08). Conceived and performed with Chelsea Bacon*
- 1997 **Love Song Dances** St. Paul's School (NH)  
*Commissioned for St. Paul's School, Concord, NH; in collaboration with composer Augusta Read Thomas; live music*
- 1996 **Protective Coloring for Pointe and Cello** Walker Art Center  
*Commissioned by Walker Art Center; in collaboration with composer Steve Heitzig; live music*
- 1994 **The Chairman Dances** O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, JSB
- 1986 **Wuthering Heights: A Pop Myth** Harvard University  
American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, MA  
*Directed by Alek Keshishian; Choreographed by Sally Rousse*
- 1985 **Prime Mates** Orpheum Theater  
*Commissioned by Omaha Ballet*
- 1984 **Monsoon Winds** St. Paul's School Dance Co., Concord, NH

## BIOGRAPHY

**SALLY ROUSSE** has built a distinguished, multi-faceted life in dance including performing, teaching, directing, curating, writing, with noteworthy honors and grants.

In 1990 Rouse co-founded James Sewell Ballet (JSB) in New York City and in three years helped, to transform it from a pick-up company to a full-time organization in the Twin Cities where she has made her home. In addition to her work with JSB she serves on several Boards and panels, awarding grants, fellowships, honors and opportunities in the performing arts that help shape the local and global cultural environment.

Sally Rouse's work as a choreographer, supported by the National Endowment for Arts, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the McKnight Foundation and the Jerome Foundation among others, has been seen in both theatrical and commercial venues including the Guthrie, Southern, and State Theaters; the Walker Art Center, O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, MASS MoCA, the Cartoon Channel, and Harvard's American Repertory Theatre. Her recent commissions include *Freemartin Twins* with for the Montréal/Minneapolis Échange. In 2009, her full-length works *Paramount to My Footage* commissioned by the Walker Art Center and Southern Theater and *Petrouchka*, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ballets Russes, featured more than 30 local performers and earned acclaim from both critics and audiences. Her collaboration with Chelsea Bacon, *trickpony*, headed the list of top ten performances of 2002 (by Minneapolis Star Tribune).

In addition to performing many roles in the classical and Balanchine repertoires as a leading dancer with the Royal Ballet of Flanders and Ballet Chicago, Rouse has also danced works by Maurice Béjart, Jiri Kylian, and over 75 new works created on her by contemporary choreographers. Her experiences living and working in Europe and New York, have contributed to forging a particular sensibility of working and living a life in dance. She is currently a Guest Artist with JSB and appears with several other diverse dance companies in the Twin Cities and New York.