

Nicola Hawkins Biography

Nicola Hawkins began her professional career as a stage director and choreographer when she moved to Boston, USA, from her native England and founded the Nicola Hawkins Dance Company (1993-2005). The award winning critically acclaimed company was known for its visually striking productions, drawing large audiences in Boston, New England and New York City.

The *Boston Herald* noted: *"There isn't anything that Nicola Hawkins does demurely...the work is the evidence of Hawkins' staggering ability to generate fresh and atypical dances...all of them accompanied by live musicians"*. The *Boston Globe* noted: *"Over the years, she has amassed an impressive repertoire of works that are musically sophisticated and theatrically alluring."*

Nicola was the company's sole choreographer and costume/set designer and became known for her eclectic range of projects. She directed and choreographed a dance opera (Elena Ruehr- composer) for the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, choreographed for a Gamelan (Balinese) Orchestra at MIT led by Evan Ziporyn (Bang on a Can), and her company members were guest artists of Bobby McFerrin at Boston's Symphony Hall. Nicola was presented by many arts and educational institutions such as Bank of Boston Celebrity Series, Harvard University, MIT, and the Peabody Essex Museum. Nicola Hawkins Dance Company was granted many commissions and awards including those from the LEF Foundation, CrashARTS, and Dance Umbrella, Boston.

On moving to rural Newfoundland in 2006, Nicola focused on her visual art practice. In 2011, Nicola had a one woman show at the Provincial Gallery of Art and two others at the Provincial Craft Council Gallery. Most recently she returned to directing and choreographing for both the stage and film. In 2019, she choreographed and directed the dance film, *On Hold (2019)*. In 2020, she premiered *Cross the Line*, a staged choreographic work for five dancers set to Bach's *Sonata no. 1 in B minor, BWV 1014*, performed live by Duo Concertante. She further collaborated with Duo Concertante on *Ecology of Being*, to create a series of short films featuring five newly commissioned musical works performed by the duo. In 2021, again collaborating with Duo Concertante, directed four videos exploring themes of reconciliation, peace, understanding, and communion through the music of Dawn Avery, Alice Ho, Jessie Montgomery and Cesar Franck.