



Sarah Bush

"I've been a choreographer and dancer basically my whole life. I started dancing at 3. It's all I've ever known and done," says Sarah Bush, the founder and choreographer of the Sarah Bush Dance Project, based in San Francisco. Bush initially trained in modern dance but found herself fascinated with popular forms—especially hip-hop—when she moved from Salt Lake City to the Bay Area in the 1990s.

Founding her own company, which she began in San Francisco in the late '90s, was a way for her to realize her unique vision. "I always want to satisfy both parts of me. That modern dance sort of academic, intellectual, structured self, and this pop, commercial-energy, sexuality side of me too." She sees her company as the fusion of two dance worlds and says it's a challenge to find dancers who work well in both modern and popular forms. So Bush frequently trains troupe members herself until they can move fluidly between the different modes she uses in her choreography.

Bush is always looking for new challenges: Her upcoming projects include working with a San Francisco opera company and choreographing a music video for transgender R&B artist and boyfriend Joshua Klipp. This is her second video with Klipp directed by Margaret Cho, who Bush says is "wonderful to work with." Their first music video collaboration saw heavy rotation on Logo and frequently landed on its Click List–Top 10 Videos.

Bush, whose mother was a liberal religious leader in Salt Lake City, sees her life's work as having an activist impulse, and would like to reach as many different audiences as she can—hence her work for MTV and her appearance in late 2007 on *The Tyra Banks Show* with Klipp. She especially likes to challenge traditional gender roles in dance: "My work all along has been queer in one way or another," Bush says. She laments the traditional—and weak—roles that women are asked to play in classical forms like ballet, and in response opens up a place for "women who dance powerfully on stage." ■

