

ESTHER PAULINE FARLEY

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Professional Summary

Choreographer and dance theatre artist based in Chicago with a focus on immersive storytelling, feminist performance and collaborative creation. Artistic Director of Bodies of Water, a multidisciplinary collective supporting emerging artists and producing original works. Experienced in creating work for stage and site-specific performance, and passionate about collaborative creation.

Commissions & Residencies

Guest Choreography Residency - The Boston Conservatory

Boston, MA | 2025

Created an original ensemble work through a two-week intensive, exploring narrative and ensemble-driven movement. Culminated in a fully produced performance with undergraduate dance majors.

Commissioned Choreographer - The LAUNCH

Chicago, IL | 2024

Commissioned to develop and premiere an original work for LAUNCH's professional dancer cohort.

Focused on physical storytelling and musicality.

Evening Length Work

Femme & Fatal	Artistic Director/Choreographer	Bodies of Water Dance, 2024
Bodies of Water	Artistic Director/Choreographer	Bodies of Water Dance, 2023
Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical	Choreographer	The Stage School, 2025
Peter Pan the Musical	Choreographer	The Stage School, 2024
Bodies of Water	Artistic Director/Choreographer	Bodies of Water Dance, 2023

Producing & Curation

Fluid Expressions Artist Festival

Chicago, IL

As Artistic Director, I lead the production of an interdisciplinary festival hosted by Bodies of Water. The festival centers emerging performance artists, offering live performance, artist workshops, and community-building events. Fluid Expressions has expanded into a two-day event featuring a masterclass series and artist networking opportunities, creating space for innovation, collaboration and visibility for new voices in the arts.

Selected Choreographic Work

Femme & Fatal (excerpt)	Emergence Dance Festival	The Edge Theatre, 2024
It folds	Contexture Dance Detroit	Redfin Theater, 2023
Grilled Peaches	Detroit Dance Exchange	The Andy Art Center, 2022
Ardent Desire	Youth American Grand Prix	Lund Auditorium, 2021
Don't Forget Yourself on the Way Out	Senior Thesis Performance	Boston Conservatory, 2021
Montmartre	Boston Conservatory Gala	Museum of Fine Arts, 2019

Education

The Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Contemporary Dance Performance - Class of 2021

Awards & Grants

Illinois Arts Council Grant Recipient, 2025

Boston Conservatory Alumni Grant, 2024