

# SEAN DORSEY - BIOGRAPHY

**BEST SAN FRANCISCO DANCE/PERFORMANCE COMPANY (SF Weekly)**

**NAMED ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP "25 TO WATCH" (Dance Magazine)**

**NAMED ONE OF THE "TOP DANCES OF THE YEAR" (San Francisco Bay Guardian)**

**TWO-TIME WINNER, ISADORA DUNCAN DANCE AWARD**

**WINNER, GOLDIE AWARD FOR PERFORMANCE**

[www.seandorseydance.com](http://www.seandorseydance.com)

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**Sean Dorsey** is an award-winning San Francisco-based choreographer and dancer. Recognized as **the nation's first acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer**, Dorsey has won over audiences and accolades from San Francisco to New York with his powerful dances that provide a window into transgender and queer experience.

**Dorsey's celebrated style is a fusion of dance, storytelling and theater.** Praised as "exquisite" (*BalletTanz*) "breathtaking" (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*) "stunning dance" (*SF Bay Times*), Dorsey has gained national attention for demystifying modern dance with his highly accessible, articulate, deeply moving work that is followed by transgender, queer and straight audiences alike.

Dorsey has been awarded **two Isadora Duncan Dance Awards** and the **Goldie Award** for Performance. He was recently named one of **Dance Magazine's** top "25 to Watch" and his celebrated concert *Uncovered: The Diary Project* was named in the "Top Dances of the Year" by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

Dorsey has been named **San Francisco's Best Dance/Performance Company** by the *SF Weekly*, and has been named one of the Top Ten in Bay Area dance by both the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* and the *Bay Area Reporter*. *BalletTanz*, Europe's leading dance magazine, named Dorsey **one of the international dance scene's most promising choreographers**. He has performed his work extensively throughout San Francisco and on tour across the US and Canada.

**Dorsey has been profiled on PBS-TV, NPR, and in Time Out New York Magazine, Out Magazine, the San Francisco Chronicle, Curve Magazine, San Francisco Bay Guardian, SF Weekly, Bay Area Reporter, Boston's Bay Area Windows, Make/Shift Magazine and many others.**

**Dorsey has collaborated with the Wachowski Brothers (Directors, The Matrix)** and international music sensation **Antony and the Johnsons**.

Dorsey is creating a new concert of work **commissioned by the National Performance Network, the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Creative Work Fund**. Dorsey has received commissions from the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, Queer Cultural Center and National Queer Arts Festival.

Dorsey is the founder and Artistic Director of **Fresh Meat Productions**, the nation's first organization to create and present year-round multidisciplinary transgender arts programs. Fresh Meat's programs include the popular annual Fresh Meat Festival of transgender and queer performance, Sean Dorsey Dance's local and touring performances and media arts events.

Dorsey's most recent concert **Uncovered: The Diary Project** is fresh from sold-out runs in San Francisco and New York and was praised by critics as "breathtaking beauty" (*SF Bay Times*), "deeply felt, splendidly shaped ... aches with beauty and grief" (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*), and "dynamism beyond words" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). *Uncovered* is available for national and international tour bookings.

**"trailblazing" "dynamism beyond words"**  
- *San Francisco Chronicle*

**"the most imaginative and intriguing dance artist in the Bay Area"**  
- *Bay Area Reporter*

**"exquisite...poignant and important"**  
- *BalletTanz*

**"astonishing"**  
- *New York Dance Insider*

**"breathtaking beauty"**  
- *San Francisco Bay Times*

**"deeply felt, splendidly shaped...aches with beauty and grief"**  
*San Francisco Bay Guardian*

**"boundlessly gifted...flawless dance"**  
- *Bay Area Reporter*

**"an artistic force to be reckoned with"**  
- *SF Weekly*

**"among the most profound dances to be seen around here"**  
- *DanceView Times*

**"stunning dance"**  
- *San Francisco Bay Times*

**"I'm an elder of the transgender community, and Sean Dorsey is my pride and joy. His sensitivity to the pain that comes with transformation is as compassionate as any Zen master's. His deadpan comic timing, his skill at seduction, his charm and boyish sexiness all make us – his audience – love him all the more. Dorsey choreographs and performs...with a skill that rivals Mark Morris."**  
- *Kate Bornstein*

# SHAWNA VIRAGO - BIOGRAPHY

**“sexy, sassy and genuine,  
no matter what sexual orientation you happen to be”**  
- *The Daily Californian*

**“elegant, edgy and elegiac”**  
- *San Francisco Bay Guardian*

**“Shawna Virago NAILS the bare bloody bones of  
trans girl rage, fears, and dreams”**  
- *Kate Bornstein*

[www.shawnavirago.com](http://www.shawnavirago.com)

**Shawna Virago** is a celebrated San Francisco based musician and activist. Miss Virago is a singer/songwriter whose music twists together folk punk and roots music creating anthems for a new generation. Her songs are raw observations about survival in a predatory world, sticking up for the underdog, queer love and gender outlaws. **Her performances are celebrated for their compelling mix of original songs, storytelling and standup.**

**A longtime favorite in San Francisco’s underground transgender music scene**, Virago’s songs are known for her irony laced lyrics that range from sexy to sarcastic, polemic to political, haunting to heartfelt. Her songs dig deep at police brutality, the economic marginalization of transgender people and life lived on the sweet continuum of being transgender.

**Virago has toured extensively to theaters, clubs, Festivals, Pride stages, colleges and universities across the US.** Recent appearances have included the National Queer Arts Festival, The San Francisco Trans March Stage, The Femme Conference, The Tranny Roadshow, The Fresh Meat Festival, The San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, HomoAGoGo, Sex Workers Art Show, Los Angeles Pride, Long Beach Pride, San Francisco Pride, and many others.

**Virago is the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival and her own films have screened throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe.** Virago is also a published writer and her latest work is included in *Gender Outlaws The Next Generation*. She is featured in the documentary *Diagnosing Difference*, which critically dissects GID (gender identity disorder). Miss Virago also composed original music for choreographer Sean Dorsey Dance’s acclaimed dance theater work *Uncovered: The Diary Project*, about pioneering transman Lou Sullivan.

**Virago has been an LGBT anti-violence activist for over 15 years and has led hundreds of trainings, workshops and classes** (please see next page for workshop and teaching list).

**SHAWNA VIRAGO - LGBT COMMUNITY ACTIVISM** (partial list):

- Artistic Director, Tranny Fest Transgender Film Festival
- Board Member, Fresh Meat Productions
- Former Advisory Board Member, Transgender Gender Variant Inmate Project
- Former Domestic Violence Survivor Program Director, Community United Against Violence
- Former Member Board of Directors, Transgender Law Center
- Former Member Board of Directors, San Francisco Women Against Rape
- Former Member, Transgender Human Rights Task Force
- San Francisco Pride Parade 2002 Grand Marshal
- Member, National Center for Lesbian Rights' Transgender Law Project Advisory Committee
- Founding Member of TransAction, a group of transpeople dedicated to exposing state violence against transgender and genderqueer people

**TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS** (partial list):

***Facilitated Transgender Sensitivity Classes and Workshops, Queer Anti-Violence Classes and Workshops, Anti-Oppression Classes and Workshops with these organizations:***

Hastings Law School, San Francisco Women Against Rape, Frameline LGBT film festival, Women Incorporated domestic violence agency, La Cases de Las Madres women's shelter, Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco State University, City College of San Francisco, University of San Francisco, University of California San Francisco, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, MultiCultural Family Violence Prevention Conference, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, Young Woman's Health Conference, Harvey Milk Academy, Out Loud & Proud, Critical Resistance, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender Women's Health Conference, Gender Odyssey Conference, LGBT Communities Against Iraq War, Asian Women's Shelter, the Femme Conference and San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium.