

Ellen Duffy is a multidisciplinary artist, performer, and Creative Director of the Bodies of Water project. Born and raised in Las Vegas, she trained as an artistic swimmer and modern dancer, while developing a profound connection to the expansive landscapes of Nevada. Her work uniquely blends athleticism, artistry, humor, and her response to being a woman in the world.

Founder/Creative Director, the Bodies of Water project

Las Vegas, NV 2024 - Present

Artist, WET Swim Show

Las Vegas, NV, August 2021 - Present

- Professional artistic swimmer.

Artist, Elan Artists

Los Angeles, CA, October 2022 - Present

Professional artistic swimmer.

Free Swimmer/Mermaid Performer, Silverton Hotel and Casino

Las Vegas, NV June 2015 - February 2017

- Rescue Diver SCUBA certified. Underwater performer in the Silverton Aquarium.
- Responsible for show creation and entertainment for 15min sets.

Choreography & Commissioned Work

2026 *Boiling Point* the Bodies of Water project by Ellen Duffy, Pyramid Lake, NV

- Made possible by the Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts

2024 *woman/water*, the Bodies of Water project by Ellen Duffy, Pyramid Lake, NV

- Made possible by the Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts

2023 *Barbie Girls*, USA Artistic Swimming Masters Championship, Oro Valley, AZ

2019 *6 Minute Marathon*, Art on The Vine, Chilmark, MA

- Part of the end of summer island artist performance showcase. A collaboration with five colleagues that reflected our journey working behind the scenes at The Yard. • 6 dancers, 6:42, Music by Various Artists

2018 *Surrender, A Prayer for my Mother*, ARTown: The Poetry Movement, Reno, NV • Part of the month-long arts festival ARTown. Event was free to the public and sponsored by SundanceBooks and Music and Nevada Humanities. The event was dance meets poetry and each choreographer was given a poem written by a Nevada poet as inspiration for their piece.

- 2 dancers, 10:00, Music by Oliver Rottman

2016 *Hi, Party of Two*, Evince, Downtown Dance Collective, Pioneer Underground, Reno, NV •

Co-choreographed with Stephanie Duffy, this piece was about awkward first dates and all the things you hate yourself for doing.

- 2 dancers, 3:35, Music by Baths

2015 Mixtape Series, The Holland Project, Reno, NV

- Organized, produced and promoted a one-night event that showcased a collaboration of local Reno musicians, choreographers and dancers.

- In total, 8 musical artists/bands, 8 choreographers and 16 dancers.

Performance Experience

Third Coast Film Festival

2025, *woman/water, the Bodies of Water project* *World Premier

DanceTheYard

2019 *Bird Talk* A.R.T. on the Vine, Chilmark, MA
2019 *Sol Lewitt* A.R.T. on the Vine, Chilmark, MA
2019 *6 Minute Marathon* A.R.T. on the Vine, Chilmark, MA
2019 *DTY Company* Built On Stilts Festival, Oak Bluffs , MA

Rosie Trump | With or Without Dance

2020 Score Cards Remote project in lieu of COVID-19 2019 *Soft Spots* Black Box Theater, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 2018 *Fill in the Blank* Going Dutch Festival, Side Street Studio Arts, Elgin, IL
2017 *Track 45* Cleveland Dance Fest, Pilgrim Church, Cleveland, OH 2016 *Fill in the Blank* Sugar Space Arts Warehouse, Salt Lake City, UT

Collateral & Co.

2018 *For Joe* ARTown, Sundance Books and Music, Reno, NV 2018 *For Joe* Literacy Crawl, Sundance Books and Music, Reno, NV

Around the Stage

2020 Ghostlite TV Collaboration Remote, Online due to COVID-19
2019 *Barefoot in the Park* Reno Little Theater, Reno, NV
2018 *Windows* ARTown, Sundance Books and Music, Reno, NV 2018 *Synopsis of This* Reno Little Theater, Reno, NV

Professional Development & Training

2019 Dance Education Lab Workshop Hosted by Deborah Damast, Chilmark MA • All DEL courses align with the NYC Department of Education Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Dance Grades K-12. The approach is built on Laban Movement Analysis (LMA), a language and system developed by Rudolf Laban.

2018 Sierra Arts Foundation: Arts Integration Training

- This program is designed to establish or expand professional development programs in arts integration for all Nevada teachers. Sierra Arts Foundation and Washoe County School District are local partners with the Kennedy Center and offer workshops for teachers in WCSD to integrate art education into their current curriculum. Arts Integration is a modality that has been shown to work successfully across all socio-economic boundaries, proving that highly engaged students are on the path to graduation.

2014-2016 University of Nevada, Reno, NV

- Dance Minor: Studied under and performed in pieces by Cari Cunningham, Rosie Trump, Eve Allen, Kristen Avansino and Jennie Pitts Knipe.

2012-2016 Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, Las Vegas, NV

- Studied under regular faculty members including Thomas Disabato, Kristine Keppel, Lisa Lazenby and Jeneane Huggins as well as exceptional guest teachers and professional dancers in the Las Vegas area. Learned Graham, Horton and Limon (modern) techniques as well jazz, ballet and choreography development. Performed in bi-annual dance concerts and annual original work.