

JOSEPH TRAN

**BRKFST
DANCE
COMPANY**

BIO

JOSEPH 'MN JOE' TRAN has been a professional breaker since 2005. He is a member of the world-renowned crew Knuckleheads Cali and a founding member of BRKFST Dance Company, an exploratory dance company rooted in breaking. He has worked as a dancer and choreographer for the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves "First Avenue Breakers" from 2007-2019, choreographed original works and has set repertoire with BRKFST at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Tran currently works as a breaking instructor for Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists and Concordia University. He has accumulated multiple first place victories in breaking competitions across the US, Europe and South America.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

BRKFST will tour Ireland for the Dance2Connect Festival in March 2022. Our company will be setting work on dance students to perform alongside a shortened version of our show "60/40."

In summer of 2022, BRKFST will premiere a production with the Minnesota Orchestra with an original work set to live music in celebration of Beethoven's 250th Anniversary.

Consisting of two original dance works, "Opus 60/40" is set to premiere July 28, 2022. This work recontextualizes Breaking—a form created and popularized by BIPOC identifying people, bringing it into a concert dance environment and juxtaposing it with orchestral music. The first piece ("prelude") will be accompanied by a string quartet playing the work of Yaz Lancaster, a Black transdisciplinary artist. BRKFST will contrast this new work with a second piece ("concerto") set to a full string orchestra playing Beethoven's "Grosse Fuge Op.133."

Tran and Lisa Berman of BRKFST will premiere a work alongside Ashwini Ramaswamy as part of the Great Northern Festival at the Cowles Center in Minneapolis, MN in February of 2023. The performance will be inspired by Italo Calvino's novel "Invisible Cities." Tran will be a choreographer and will collaborate with Ashwini drawing from her Bharatanatyam background to inform his movement.

CONTACT

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REPERTOIRE AVAILABLE FOR TOURING

60/40

60/40 is instigated by systemic violence, inequity, and oppression. It embodies the contrasting sensations of neurotic fervor and frustrated defeat. An exploration of imbalance and acts of united vulnerability, BRKFST generates intimacy and community, evoking a visceral response of individuals frustrated by rules, regulations, and boundaries.

Performers: 5

Tech: Full theatrical lighting, side wings (optional), sound system

SECONDS

Seconds addresses the feeling of being caught in the rat race for fame and the reality of being forgotten. In the breaking community, the term, "biting," describes taking another's unique move and claiming it as your own. This artful theft is frowned upon as breaking values ingenuity over victory.

Performers: 6

Tech: Full theatrical lighting, side wings (optional), sound system

PAPER/TRAILS

paper/trails is a production based on the ramifications of paper. In this heightened political arena, in which documentation of our citizenry means higher stakes for our livelihoods, it seems there is no way to be American without kept receipts, bills, and correspondence. Can we exist without the proof of identification?

Performers: 6

Tech: Full theatrical lighting, side wings, sound system, storage for sets

