

ALYSSA BUNCE

PROFILE

Alyssa is a multidisciplinary artist, graduated from the DEC program of the National Circus School (Montreal, Quebec) in 2019, becoming the first student originating from the Canadian territories to graduate from the NCS. Throughout her childhood and youth she studied gymnastics, various styles of dance, movement improvisation, and theatre; which eventually merged into her circus practice. In 2015 Alyssa moved from her place of birth, Whitehorse, Yukon [Kwanlin Dün traditional territory] to Montreal, Quebec [Tiohtià:ke / Mooniyang], to pursue an education in circus arts. In 2017 Alyssa utilized three aerial hoops collectively, originating a novel aerial concept which she premiered internationally in Berlin, in 2023. Trained traditionally in Contortion, she employs her skills to evolve the discipline, through a conceptual and contemporary approach. Coexisting and intermingling with her performing arts practice, Alyssa is a self-taught poet and writer - her work has been published in international collections, as well as compiled in self-published poetry projects. Given her history of uprooting herself at a young age to pursue her passion, Alyssa is dedicated to bringing contemporary circus to the Yukon in the form of innovative, political, and thought provoking works. Alyssa is devoted to the unique potential of circus as an artistic language, and is passionate about using the medium to explore meaningful topics including feminist issues, substance dependency, spirituality, and the interconnectivity of all planetary beings.

EDUCATION

- Movement Exploration and Dance workshop with Chey Jurado, Guadalajara, Mexico. — *November 2022*
- Graduate of the DEC collegial studies program at the National Circus School in Montreal, Quebec. Specializing in Aerial Hoop; with minors in contortion (c. Lydia Joukova), hula hoop (c. Irina Bozyan), and creative acrobatics (c. Nicolas Germaine). Coached in Aerial Hoop by Nathalie Hébert and Nadia Richer, studying under Veronica Mélis as an artistic counsellor. — *2016-2019*
- Graduate of the Cirques Études Secondaires (CES) programme at National Circus School in Montreal, Quebec — *2015-2016*.
- Personal exploration on Aerial Hoop — *2014-2015*
- Daily dance classes in Ballet, Contemporary, and Jazz Dance — *2011-2014*
- Competitive Gymnastics — *2005-2011*

EXPERIENCE

[PUBLIC PERFORMANCES]

Our Lady of the Home — Phantom Theatre, Vermont, August 2024

Following the creation residencies for Alyssa's original, full length solo-show "Our Lady of the Home", she premiered to sold-out audiences on two separate dates in Warren, Vermont.

in_between — Prague, Czech Republic, October 2023

A week of performances at Jatka78, a performance venue and creation space dedicated to contemporary circus in Prague, Czech Republic. Paid an artist fee.

in_between — Helsinki, Finland, 2020 - 2022 | Chameleon Theatre, Berlin, February - August 2023

Creation and performance of a full length contemporary circus show with Finnish/French company Circo Aereo, directed by Maksim Komaro. Performed at the Chameleon theatre - a pioneering establishment showcasing contemporary circus in Berlin. In this production Alyssa performs contortion, physical theatre, aerial hoop, solo and group acrobatics, and her original research on three aerial hoops. Paid an artist fee.

Femme Presenting Variety Showcases — San Fransisco, Mexico, 2021 - Present [periodic]

Alyssa performs frequently in multi genre variety shows, joined by an international collective of femme identifying artists; collaboratively and continually creating and presenting shows that include dance, theatre, poetry and circus arts, providing commentary on political themes. Paid an artist fee.

Ou Vont Les Fleurs — Montreal, Quebec, May 29th - June 9th 2019

Creation and performance in Montreal, Quebec, directed by Alain Francoeur and Marie-Josée Gauthier. Alyssa performed hula hoop, contortion, dance, and theatre. Ou Vont les Fleurs played to sold-out audiences at the TOHU.

Équilibres Déséquilibré — Montreal, Quebec, November 9th - 12th 2018

Contortion, hula hoop, dance, and acting in a circus directed by Michel G. Barette. Performed at the Salle Bourgie to mark the opening of the Alexander Calder Arts exhibition at the Fine Arts Museum of Montreal. Paid an artist fee.

Saint John's International Circus Festival — Saint Johns, Newfoundland, September 26th - 29th 2018

Alyssa presented an original aerial hoop act accompanied by the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra; for the debut year of the international festival. Paid an artist fee.

Les Minutes Complètement Cirque: PHÉNIX — Montreal, Quebec, July 5th - 15th 2018

Street production directed by Anthony Venisse and choreographed by and choreographed by Lucie Vigneault, part of the International Festivale Complement Cirque in Montreal. Alyssa performed duo contortion, group and solo acrobatics, and dance — presenting consistently for two weeks and yielding audiences of up to 7000 spectators. Paid an artist fee.

Sapience — Montreal, Quebec, May 25th - June 14th 2018

Creation and performance a full length spectacle directed by Anthony Venisse and choreographed by Lucie Vigneault. Alyssa performed contortion, aerial-hoop, dance and acrobatics, for two weeks at the TOHU in Montreal.

Ytilaer — Montreal, Quebec, June 2nd - 6th 2017

Contortion, dance and acrobatics in a 20 minute pre-show animation directed by Michael Watts, performed at the TOHU, in Montreal Quebec.

Petite Piece a la Verticale — Montreal, Quebec, June 2nd - 5th 2016

Contortion, acrobatics, dance, aerial hoop. Directed by Anthony Venisse, a 45 minute circus production, performed at the National Circus School in Montreal, Quebec.

Council of the Federation Performance — Whitehorse, Yukon, July 21st 2016

Hosted by the Yukon Arts Centre and the Yukon Government, curated to provide entertainment for Canada's Premiers. Alyssa performed an original Aerial Hoop act accompanied by Canadian singer-songwriter, Sarah Macdougall. Paid an artist fee.

[RESIDENCIES & COMPANY INVOLVEMENT]

Our Lady of the Home, 2024 - Ongoing

With support from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Yukon Arts Fund, Alyssa conceived and performed a 60 minute contemporary circus show employing contortion, physical theatre, acrobatics and aerial hoop to tell a feminist story of self-reclamation and authentic consent. Alyssa completed four creation residencies, nationally and internationally, and collaborated with diverse and acclaimed artists to bring the show to fruition. Paid an artist fee.

Circo Aereo, 2019 - 2023

Alyssa was engaged to work with Circo Aereo, pioneering and acclaimed Finnish/French contemporary circus company in 2019 following her graduation. Alyssa was selected at an international audition in Prague, CZ, to be one of seven artists in Circo Aereo's new creation, In_Between. Alyssa has participated in several residencies with the

company from 2020 to 2023 and is the only employed artist from North America. She has performed the show *In_Between* 150 times to international audiences. This is a paid engagement.

Creation Residency —Helsinki, Finland, June 2020, Dec 2020 - Jan 2021, Dec 2022- Jan 2023

Creation residencies at CIRKO, Centre for New Circus in Helsinki Finland for initial exploratory phase of *In_between*, directed by Maksim Komaro. Paid an artist fee.

Ode to the Underground Kingdom — San Fransisco, Mexico, Nov. 2021

Creation residency for Alyssa's solo contortion work, interpreting arthropod consciousness through the human sensory capacity. The work provides commentary on the briefness and cyclical nature of existence and the universal, organic urge to live and transcend. Alyssa is continues to explore this concept.

[COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND TEACHING]

Children's Workshops — Dawson City, Yukon, September - October 2023

Leading and facilitating introductory circus workshops for local children aged four to nine years old, two days per week at the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture, Dawson City, YT.

Act conception and coaching for Sancho — San Fransisco, Mexico, February - March 2020

Conception and coaching of circus acts (Aerial Hoop, Dance, Acrobatics) for the production *Sancho*, a youth circus show directed by Fernand Rainville, and Gilles Ste Croix, for Circo de Los Niños; a not-for-profit social circus program in Mexico. Volunteer community collaboration.

Circus Camps and Summer Programs — Whitehorse, Yukon, June-August 2012/13/14 [Seasonal]

Coaching children and youth aged 5-16 in collaboration with the Yukon Circus Society for the territory's first circus arts education programs at the Yukon Arts Centre, led by Claire Ness.

[AWARDS AND GRANTS]

-Explore and Create Grant, Canada Council for the Arts, 2024, for project "Our Lady of the Home".

-Advanced Artist Award, Yukon Arts Fund, 2023, for project "Our Lady of the Home".