

# NAILAH RENUKA

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## EXPERIENCE

### *All That We Are*

Les 7 Doigts de la Main and Virgin Voyages (August – September 2023) | Montreal

Pole dancer, contortionist, and acrobat in creative collaboration with Gypsy Snider and Isabel Chassé

### *Lifting Belly*

Jordana Greenblatt (July – August 2023) | Toronto

Aerialist in Canada Council for the Arts-funded circus project inspired by Gertrude Stein's *Lifting Belly*

### *All That We Are: Creation Workshop*

Les 7 Doigts de la Main and Virgin Voyages (June 2023) | Montreal

Pole dancer, contortionist, and acrobat in creative collaboration with Gypsy Snider and Isabel Chassé

### *The Chaos Project Part II: Corporate Chaos*

Hercinia Arts Collective (April – June 2023) | Toronto

Artistic collaborator in the creation of solo and partnering aerial choreography on cord lisse.

### *Contract Contortionist, Acrobat, Pole Dancer, and Aerialist*

StarMuse Entertainment (March 2023 – Current) | Canada

### *Contract Contortionist, Acrobat, Pole Dancer, and Aerialist*

Cirque Revolution (March 2023 – Current) | Canada

### *Winter's Bloom*

Second Sky Circus + Bounce Entertainment (Dec 2022) | Toronto

Winter-themed Featured Contortion Act for Corporate Holiday Event

### *Contract Roaming Circus Artist and Dancer*

Hit and Run Productions (Feb 2022 – Current) | Canada

### *Contract Roaming Acrobat, Contortionist, and Hand Balancer*

Hercinia Arts Collective (March 2021 – Current) | Canada

## *EXUDE*

Kylie Thompson (May 2022) | Toronto

Weeklong contemporary creation intensive culminating in a 30-minute piece featuring floorwork, partnering, and improvisation.

### *Cirque du Poulet*

Hercinia Arts Collective (May 2022) | Toronto

Roaming acrobat and contortionist for a fun, zany, and sometimes saucy contemporary circus cabaret starring some of Ontario's top circus talents.

### *Circus Autists*

Andralyn Zayn (Nov 2021 – Jan 2022) | Toronto

A Canada Council for the Arts funded multi-disciplinary documentary film that researches the relationship between autism and circus.

*Featured artist and contortion, hand-balancing, and acrobatics choreographer.*

### *The Good Life*

The Barenaked Ladies | Kylie Thompson (June 2021) | Toronto

Featured dance artist under the direction of Kylie Thompson in a music video for the Barenaked Ladies.

### *UYIRE*

Kothu Boys | Kylie Thompson, Kalainithan Kalaichelvan & Black Caper Films (Mar 2021) | Toronto

Featured choreographic collaborator and dance artist under the direction of Kylie Thompson in *UYIRE* music video for the Kothu Boys, directed by Kalainithan Kalaichelvan.

### *mettle demonstrated (the uncommon woman)*

NExT: The Future of Art | VIBE Arts (Aug 2020 - May 2021) | Toronto

Fully funded research multi-disciplinary creation process that investigates the silent strength held by women of colour as they fight to reclaim their power and body sovereignty through the embodied physicality of liberated victory and persistence; supported by mentorship by Nayo Sasaki-Picou and filmography by Paul Ohonsi.

### *echoes of embodiment (re-centred)*

The Stages: De-centred | The And, Stage Company (Sept - Oct 2020) | Toronto (Virtual and In Person)

A thorough exploration into 'echoes of embodiment', a self-choreographed and self-produced solo contemporary/modern dance film, featuring self-produced music and original poetry, that was crafted during a previous residency.

Refined and reworked with dramaturgy and mentorship from Kanika Ambrose and Myekah Payne.

### *BABBLE*

Beats + Intentions Performance Unit Artist | Expect Theatre (Sept - Nov 2020) | Toronto (Virtual/Remote)

Multi-disciplinary virtual collaboration and creation project concluding with an original dance film, facilitated with the support and mentorship from a team of established artists including Andrea Houssin, Chris Tolley, Laura Mullin, Barbara Johnston, and Nicole Pantin.

### *echoes of embodiment*

REVERB: Digital Creation Residency | Theatre Oculus (Aug - Sept 2020) | Toronto (Virtual/Remote)

Solo contemporary/modern dance film inspired by the necessary but alienating isolation experienced by those who are relentlessly dedicated to their goals and the resulting strength and resilience.

Self-produced sound and original poetry; mentored by Drew Berry.

*Mediums: contemporary dance, videography, sound production*

### *CONNECT*

B.Create. Digital Symposium | B.Create. (Apr - Jun 2020) | Toronto (Virtual/Remote)

Digital exploration searching for the answers to: how do we truly connect with a screen between performers? How do we truly connect with a virtual audience? A multi-disciplinary investigation into bridging the virtual divide.

### *Empowering the Woman's Voice \**

Communities Connecting Heritage | Carolyn Dorfman Dance (Jan - Mar 2020) | New York City

A call to action to celebrate and elevate the power and essentialness of women's voices in domestic and international cultural preservation, evolution, and social change. A multi-faceted exchange with *Katha Ghera*, a women's theatre collective, from Kathmandu, Nepal. Supported by Communities Connecting Heritage, a world learning program funded by the US Department of State.  
*Mediums: contemporary dance, theatre, cultural dance*

*\*project was indefinitely suspended due to political unrest in Nepal that threatened the safety of our Community Alliance Katha Ghera*

#### *Memoria*

The Ailey School | Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Dec 2019) | New York City  
Performed *Memoria* by Alvin Ailey with the main company during their New York City Center season.

#### *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*

The Ailey School | Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater & Macy's (Nov 2019) | New York City  
Performed *Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham* by Alvin Ailey

#### *New Directions Choreography Lab*

The Ailey School (Sept 2019 - Feb 2020) | New York City  
Two-part collaborative contemporary creation project under the direction of Matthew Rushing, spending three months in process with Helen Simoneau (Helen Simoneau Danse) exploring the extremes of physicality and musicality in contemporary dance, and three months in process with Ross Daniel and Sarah Rose (DanielRose Projects) investigating the transferable concepts between architecture and dance.

#### *Table of Silence*

Jacquelyn Buglisi | Buglisi Dance Theater (2018, 19, 21) | New York City  
Performed on 9/11 at the Josie Roberston Plaza at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Table of Silence is a public call to action for peace, tying together the common threads of humanity which unite all mankind into a single force with common goals and aspirations regardless of race, culture or religion through ritualized contemporary and modern dance.

#### *AbunDance*

Artistic Director Susan Lee | York Dance Ensemble (Feb 2019) | Toronto  
Featured choreographers Susan Lee, Susan Liska, Christine and Lisa Brkich, and Darcey Callison.

#### *DEITY*

Kylie Thompson & Steven Bawa | Kylie Thompson Dance (Jan - Mar 2018) | Toronto  
Short contemporary dance film.

#### *Starcatcher*

Christina Digioseppe & Lukas Calbaka | Creativiva (Mar – Jun 2017) | Toronto  
Multi-disciplinary contemporary circus and theatre show.  
*Mediums: contemporary dance, theatre, acrobatics*

#### *Pan Am Games*

Allison Bradley & Lineen Duong | DARK Dance (Jan – Aug 2015) | Toronto  
Multiple dance performances spanning the lead up to and the duration of the 2015 Pan Am Games  
*Mediums: contemporary dance, commercial jazz, hip hop, acrobatics*

#### *KALOS Collective*

Jessica Ford (2015-16) | Toronto

Founding Company Member

*Mediums: contemporary dance, ballet, commercial jazz, hip hop, acrobatics*

### *DARK Dance*

Allison Bradley & Lineen Duong | DARK Dance (2015-18) | Toronto

Elite Contemporary Company Member

*Mediums: contemporary dance, commercial jazz, hip hop, acrobatics*

## **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

### **Pole Dance**

#### *Private Training*

June 2022 – ongoing | Toronto

*Instructors:* Elspeth Cudmore, Molly Dion, Tata Gabor, Christine Denise, Sarah Polerina, Laura Sparkles, Stephanie Pham, Joanne Jade

### **Contortion**

#### *Private Training*

January 2021 – ongoing | Toronto, Virtual

*Instructors:* Alixa Sbolodyan, Ariana Ferber-Carter, Serchmaa Byamba, Victoria Kouzz, Toria Summerville, Caylin Leia, Marianne Cecilia Cole

### **Handbalancing**

#### *Private Training*

January 2021 – ongoing | Toronto, Quebec City, Virtual, Montreal

*Instructors:* Victoria Kouzz, Maleke Duncan-Reid, Ariana Ferber-Carter, Serchmaa Byamba, Jeremy Vik, Kenneth Lindermann, Marie-Eve Diclaire

### **Acrobatics + Tumbling**

#### *Private Training*

January 2021 – ongoing | Toronto, Quebec City, Montreal

*Instructors:* Maleke Duncan-Reid, Kaitlin Kawam, Katelyn Ettinger, Yannick Blackburn, Monica Sorbara, Lexie Stavro

#### *Danceology*

Competitive Acro Dance | 2011 – 2016 | Toronto

*Instructors:* Margaret Amato, Vicki Fletcher

#### *Women's Artistic Gymnastics*

1999 – 2010 | Greater Toronto Area

*Coaches:* Craig Smith, Elena Davydova, Tammie Gray, Valery Yahchybekov, Svetlana Degteva, Tetyana Lushnikova, Olga Dudchenko

## Trampoline

### *Just Bounce*

January 2018 – ongoing | Toronto

*Instructors:* Stephen David, Mark Quinan

## Cerceau

### *Private Training*

January 2022 – ongoing | Toronto, Montreal

*Instructors:* Leeann Ball, Keely Whitelaw, Maleke Duncan-Reid, Melanie Porter

## Cyr Wheel

### *Private Training*

July 2022 – ongoing | Toronto

*Instructors:* Christa Wilson

### *École de Cirque de Québec*

L'Étage d'Été | June-July 2022 | Québec City

*Faculty:* Francis Caron, Kenneth Lindermann, Pierre Benoit

## Dance, Voice, and Theatre

### *Private Training*

2015 – ongoing | Toronto, New York, Virtual

*Instructors:* George Absi, Amy Lintunen, Allison Bradley, Jessica Ford, Lauren Runions, Patrick Parsons, Lianne Tammi, Alyssa Martin, Kim O'Neill, Candace Helm, Stacey Minagawa, Jeff Dimitrou, Al Blackstone, Janice Rosario, Lisa Harvey, Deb Roche, Charles Goddertz, Josh Assor, Daniel Gold, Billy Griffin, Lynn Schwab, Ginger Thatcher, Shirley Bassat, Kylie Thompson, Nicole Pantin

### *Winter Training Program (VIM VIGOR)*

Scholarship Winner | January 2021 | Toronto (Virtual/Remote)

*Faculty:* Alanna Kraaijeveld, Jason Cianciulli, Kiley Dolaway, Shannon Gillen, Marija Obradovic

*Education:* Fighting Monkey, Floorwork, Choreography, VIM VIGOR Repertory, Physical Theatre

### *EXUDE (Kylie Thompson Dance)*

Summer Intensive | Jul - Aug 2020 | Toronto (Virtual/Remote)

*Faculty:* Kylie Thompson

### *the works (Jennifer Muller/the works)*

Scholarship Program | Feb - Apr 2020 | New York City (*interrupted due to COVID-19*)

*Faculty:* Jennifer Muller

### *The Ailey School (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater)*

Summer Intensive (2015-16, 2018-19), Scholarship Program (2020) | New York City

*Faculty:* Benjamin Briones, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Will Brown, Maguette Camara, Judine Somerville, Lakey Evans-Pena, Ana Marie Forsythe, Francesca Harper, Christopher Jackson, Brice Mousset, Francoise Pender, Cassandra Phiffer, Bradley Shelver, Helen Simoneau, Jessica St. Vil

*York University*

BFA Hons. Dance Performance/Choreography (2015 – 2019) | Toronto

*Faculty:* Carol Anderson, Freya Björg Olafson, Syreeta Hector, Helen Jones, Susan Lee, Suzanne Liska, Tracey Norman, John Ottman, Julia Sasso

*The Graham School*

Repertory Summer Intensive (2016-18) | New York City

*Faculty:* Tami Alesson, Peiju Chien-Pott, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Lloyd Knight, Ari Mayzick, Virginie Mécène

*Social Growl Dance*

Emerging Artist Summer Intensive (2017) | Toronto

*Faculty:* Kay Kenney, Riley Simms

*Danceology*

Competitive Dance (2011-2016)

*Canadian Opera Company*

Children's Chorus (2004-14) | Toronto

*Faculty:* Ann Cooper-Gay, Erin Waltman, Errol Gay

*Etobicoke School of the Arts*

Musical Theatre / Dance Double Major | Toronto

*Notable Faculty:* Paul Aikins, Annie Wood, Colleen Friedman, Michaela Michilidis, Gabby Kamino