

## ABOUT DAINA ASHBEE



An award-winning Métis/Dutch Canadian artist, performer and choreographer based in Canada, born in Nanaimo, British Columbia known for her radical works at the edge of dance and performance. At the age of 26, she had already won two awards for her choreographies. She was a double prizewinner at the Prix de la danse de Montréal, winning both the Prix du CALQ for Best Choreography of 2015-2016 for her choreographic installation *When the Ice Melts, Will We Drink the Water?*, and the Prix Découverte de la danse, for *Unrelated* (her first choreography). Daina was named by the prestigious German TANZ magazine as one of 30 promising artists for the year 2017 and named one of 25 to watch by the American publication, DANCE in 2018.

In 2019, she won a New York Dance and Performance Award, Bessie, for Outstanding Choreographer. In 2021, at the age of 31, she had two separate Retrospectives of her performance artworks; one in Montpellier, France and the second in Montreal, Canada.

Recognized as one of the most prolific choreographers of her generation, since 2015 her work has been presented over one-hundred times in 15 countries and over 35 different cities. Her work being presented in some of the most prestigious festivals (The Venice Biennale, Oktoberdansen, the Munich Dance Biennale, Montpellier Danse) and on the stages of the world (Canada, France, Spain, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Greenland, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Mexico).

After residing for 8 years in the city of Montréal, in 2020 she relocated to Gabriola Island, British Columbia (unceded territory of Snuneymuxw Nation) where she re-sources her creative and energetic practices close to the rain forest on the west coast of Canada while she is not touring or creating abroad.

She continues to tour regularly in Europe, Canada and the United States. In 2020 two new pieces were released: a male solo, *Laborious Song* and a group piece, *J'ai pleuré avec les chiens* (later renamed *J'ai pleuré avec les chiens TIME, CREATION, DESTRUCTION* in 2021).

Daina has also begun creating another group piece *My Tale on a Fish's Body* which will premiere in 2023. In 2021 Daina presented 5 of her original works at Montpellier Dance Festival: *Unrelated* (2014), *Pour* (2016), *When the ice melts, will we drink the water?* (2016), *Serpentine* (2017) and *Laborious Song* (2020). Daina presented 4 of her original works at Usine-C titled *Daina Ashbee Retrospective* which featured *Unrelated*, *Pour*, *When the ice melts, will we drink the water?* And *Laborious Song* in October 2021.

She is also a teacher of movement, choreography and therapeutic practices. She has taught at the Venice Biennale College in Venice, Italy, as a guest at The University of Stavanger, Norway and at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia U.S.A. Daina presented her workshops at *Nulty Bod/ZeroPoint Festival* in Prague, in Guadalajara, Mexico, across Canada and especially in Montreal, Quebec., for the past 13 years. In 2022 she will teach in Costa Rica and across Canada.