

alyssa bunce

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Profile

Alyssa Bunce is a multidisciplinary artist, graduated from the DEC program of the National Circus School (Tiohtià:ke / Mooniyang / Montreal, QC) in 2019, becoming the first student originating from the Canadian territories (traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün & Ta'an Kwäch'än Council / Whitehorse, YT) to graduate from the NCS. The foundational mediums of her performance practice include Aerial Hoop, Contortion, Acrobatics, Magie Nouvelle, and [physical] theatre. Alyssa has collaborated with acclaimed contemporary circus companies; and has performed & undertaken residencies at preeminent circus venues internationally. In 2024, following reflections into the common practices and representation of her industry, she reoriented herself as an independent, socially-engaged creator. This path was initiated by her durational solo-show "Our Lady of the Home" (premiering 2025) which she conceptualized and performs. Coexisting and dialoguing with her devotion to the performing arts, Alyssa maintains visual arts and writing practices, and works in social-outreach with dignity-preserving women's advocacy organizations. Across mediums, her work often explores feminist philosophies, wellness, environmental advocacy, spirituality, and myth.

Education

- Foundations of Violence Against Women, Working in Transition Housing courses | **2026**
- Response Based Practice, Mental Health First Aid for Northern Peoples, Applied Suicide Intervention, Trauma Informed Care, and Sexual Assault Response courses | **2025-2026**
- Operating Fly-Systems and Circus Rigging provided by Tallis Kirby | **2022**
- Graduate of the DEC collegial studies program at the National Circus School in Montreal, Quebec. Specialized in Aerial Hoop; with minors in contortion, hula hoop, and creative acrobatics. Coached in Aerial Hoop by Nathalie Hébert, studying under Veronica Mélis as an artistic advisor. | **2016-2019**
- Graduate of the Cirques Études Secondaires (CES) programme at National Circus School in Montreal, Quebec | **2015-2016**

Public Performances

OUR LADY OF THE HOME | International | 2024 - 2026, Ongoing

PRESS

A solo theatrical-circus work conceptualized and performed by Alyssa Bunce. The show explores mental-health, substance-use, feminism, and choice through a vocabulary of theatre, acrobatics, illusion, contortion, and aerial hoop. (60 min.)

Performances:

- Phantom Theatre (work-in-progress) | Warren, USA | August 2024
- La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines (Premiere) | Montréal Complètement Cirque Festival | July 2025
- The Yukon Arts Centre | Whitehorse, Yukon | September 2025
- Circanario | Gran Canaria, Spain | October 2025
- The Cave, Chamäleon Theatre (open-studio) | Berlin, Germany | November 2025
- Palacio de Festivales de Cantabria (excerpts) | Santander, Spain | November 2025
- 3AM Theatre | New York City, USA | April 2026

IN_BETWEEN | Jatka78 | Prague, Czech Republic | October 2023

A week of performing “in_between” at Jatka78, the predominant contemporary circus venue and creation space in Prague, Czech Republic.

IN_BETWEEN | Chamäleon Theatre | Berlin, Germany | February - August 2023

130+ performances of “in_between” at the Chamäleon Theatre, an acclaimed and pioneering contemporary circus venue in Berlin, Germany. The Chamäleon co-produced the show, and engaged the company for 6 month season; performing 7 shows a week.

IN_BETWEEN | CIRKO | Helsinki, Finland | (Virtual) Premiere, December 2021

Creation and performance of a contemporary circus show with Finnish/French company Circo Aereo, directed by Maksim Komaro. In this production, Alyssa performs contortion, physical theatre, aerial hoop, solo and group acrobatics, and her original research with three aerial hoops. The show had its virtual premiere at CIRKO, Finland’s principal contemporary circus venue and creation space.

OU VONT LES FLEURS | TOHU | Montreal, QC | May - June 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, Canada’s principal circus venue.

ÉQUILIBRES DÉSÉQUILIBRÉ | Salle Bourgie | Montreal, QC | November 2018

Contortion, hula hoop, dance, and theatre in an original circus production 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.

SAINT JOHN’S INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS FESTIVAL | Saint Johns, NF | September 2018

Alyssa presented an original aerial hoop act accompanied by the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra in the debut year of this international festival.

LES MINUTES COMPLETEMENT CIRQUE: PHÉNIX | Montreal, Quebec | July 2018

Street production directed by Anthony Venisse and choreographed by Lucie Vigneault, part of the Festivale Completent 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.

COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION GALA | Yukon Arts Centre | Whitehorse, YT | July 2016

Hosted by the Yukon Arts Centre & the Yukon Government, curated to provide entertainment for Canada’s Premiers. Alyssa performed an original Aerial Hoop act accompanied by singer-songwriter Sarah Macdougall.

Independent Works

OUR LADY OF THE HOME | 2024 - Ongoing

Through support from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Yukon Arts Fund, Alyssa conceived a 60 minute contemporary circus show using contortion, physical theatre, illusion, acrobatics and aerial hoop to tell a feminist story of self-reclamation and choice. Alyssa has been offered studio space in-kind to support this work and has collaborated with recognized contributors, including Veronica Mélis, Aime Morales, and Brin Schoellkopf. The show is accompanied by a multimedia counterpart (Our Lady of the Wandering Womb) which provides context and further examines the themes addressed in the show. Our Lady of the Home premiered July 2025 in the Montréal Complètement Cirque Festival, receiving standing ovations and responses which affirm its relevance. Alyssa continues to circulate and perform this work.

ODE TO THE UNDERGROUND KINGDOM | 2022 - Ongoing

A contortion and acrobatic project, interpreting insect consciousness and life-cycle through the human sensory capacity. The comments on the briefness and cyclical nature of existence, interconnectivity, and the universal, organic urge to live and transcend. Alyssa continues to explore and develop this concept.

TRINITY | 2019 - Ongoing

Alyssa's conceptual and acrobatic exploration using three aerial hoops rigged to separate points. Through her original research, technique and sequencing with three aerial hoops, she explores themes of devotion, salvation and redemption; pulling inspiration from sculpture, iconography, and myth. Alyssa continues to develop this concept, with residencies scheduled in 2026 & 2027.

Residencies & Company Involvement

THE CREATURES WE LIVE IN | 2026 - ongoing

Alyssa has been offered in-kind residencies to support the initial steps of her new work: at the Jenni House (Whitehorse YT, July 2026), The Yukon Arts Centre (Whitehorse YT, August 2026), and 3AM Theatre (New York City, USA, March 2027).

OUR LADY OF THE HOME | 2024 - 2025

Among the creation residencies completed for this piece, Alyssa was offered in-kind residency support by the Chamäleon Theatre (Berlin), Phantom Theatre (Vermont), The Yukon Arts Centre (Whitehorse), Circanario (Spain), and 3AM Theatre (New York City).

CIRCO AEREO | 2019 - 2023

Alyssa was engaged to work with Circo Aereo, a pioneering and renowned Finnish/French contemporary circus company in 2019 following her graduation. Selected at an international audition in Prague, Czechia, Alyssa became the sole non-European based artist engaged for the creation of "in_between" directed by Maksim Komaro. Alyssa has participated in multiple residencies with the company from 2020-23, including a residency at CIRKO, Finland's principal venue for contemporary circus.

Production & Stage Management

INDEPENDENT SHOW PRODUCTION | 2023 - 2025

Alyssa assumed the majority of production responsibility in her independent creation Our Lady of the Home; including team organization, funding applications, budgeting, communications, promotion, website development, and bookings.

STAGE MANAGER, TOUR DE PISTE

International Contemporary Circus Market (MICC) | Montreal, 2022

Corresponding with international Circus companies, receiving and accommodating attendees, and technically supporting presentations during the Tour de Piste at North America's predominant contemporary circus market. Working under Aaron Marquise and Ruth Wikler at the TOHU.

Awards and Grants

- ADVANCED ARTIST AWARD, YUKON ARTS FUND, 2023
- EXPLORE AND CREATE GRANT, CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, 2024
- CULTURE QUEST GRANT, YUKON ARTS FUND, 2025
- CONCEPT TO REALIZATION GRANT, CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, 2025
- ADVANCED ARTIST AWARD, YUKON ARTS FUND, 2026