

EMILY HUGHES

inter-disciplinary
circus artist

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Producing/Project Management

- 2022** - *Cirque du Poulet*, Hercinia Arts Collective, contemporary circus cabaret, Cambium Farms, Caledon, ON
- 2021** - *PEEP*, Hercinia Arts Collective, multi-disciplinary site specific performance at The Bentway Conservancy
- 2021** - *Construction Guys*, Hercinia Arts Collective, aerial street theatre show creation residency at Ontario Place
- 2021** - *HASA at Arts in the Parks*, Hercinia Arts Collective, aerial street theatre show at Flagstaff Park, Toronto
- 2021** - *The Chaos Project Part III*, Hercinia Arts Collective, theatrical aerial dance creation residency at The Bentway Conservancy
- 2021** - *PEEP*, Hercinia Arts Collective, multi-disciplinary site specific performance at private residence
- 2020** - *(Un)usual Spaces*, Hercinia Arts Collective, multi-disciplinary online art party
- 2020** - *The Flying Machine at Arts in the Parks*, Hercinia Arts Collective, aerial theatrical production at Flagstaff Park, Toronto
- 2019** - *The Stupendous Silver Sisters at Arts in the Parks*, Hercinia Arts Collective, aerial theatrical production at Flagstaff & Parkway Forest Parks, Toronto
- 2019** - *Cirque du Poulet*, Hercinia Arts Collective, contemporary circus cabaret, The Redwood Theatre, Toronto
- 2018** - *Birds of Flight*, Hercinia Arts Collective, aerial dance theatrical production at Earl Bales Park, Toronto

Choreography/Direction/Collaborations

- 2022** - aerial dramaturge, *Weathering and Waiting*, Opal Essence, trio aerial creation on invented canoe apparatus, Peterborough, ON
- 2021** - collaborator, *Construction Guys*, Hercinia Arts Collective, aerial street theatre show creation residency at Ontario Place
- 2021** - collaborator/clown, *Circus Sundaes: Sweet & Salty*, Flying Solo TO, travelling circus show on a flatbed "ice cream truck"
- 2021** - filmmaker/choreographer, *rooted*, a short film mixing hand balancing, dance and rotoscope animation
(screenings: 2022 - *Circus International Film Festival*, *OneEarth Awards*)
- 2020-22** - creator/choreographer/performer, *Goodybe Esther*, a solo contemporary circus show told through aerial arts, clown, handstands & juggling
- 2019/20** - co-devisor/choreographer, *REST*, a contemporary circus show inspired by the 1892 novella *The Yellow Wallpaper*
- 2019** - deviser/director, *I Fear*, improvised aerial dance & musical installation examining our personal & collective fears, In the Soil Arts Festival (St Catharines) and Nuit Blanche North (Huntsville), ON
- 2018/19** - program facilitator & director, *Aerial Creation & Choreography and Aerial Improvisation Series*, leading pre-professional aerial dance artists through improvisation, creation and impulse-driven exercises, Toronto Circus Collective
- 2018** - director/producer, *Birds of Flight*, contemporary circus production for Animating Toronto Parks program with funding from Toronto Arts Council, Earl Bales Park in Toronto with Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2018** - deviser/director/performer, *I Fear*, improvised aerial dance & musical installation examining our personal & collective fears, Nuit Blanche North, Huntsville, ON
- 2018** - aerial director, *Nomadic Tempest*, creation/production in Nanaimo BC for 2018 west coast tour with Caravan Stage Company
- 2018** - creator/director, *(re)moving Graffiti: The Living Mural*, In the Soil Arts Festival; Hercinia Arts, performance artist being live painted and embodying art through

theatre, dance & guerrilla aerial

- 2017** - project facilitator, *Maelstrom*, contemporary circus production for Hercinia's Creation Lab program
- 2016** - co-devisor/choreographer/performer, *Underneath*, Balancing on the Edge at Harbourfront Theatre, Toronto; part of NextSteps, produced by A Girl in the Sky and Thin Edge New Music Collective
12 minute aerial silks & live projection performance, set to live drumming
- 2016** - co-Director, *Once Upon a Broom*, aerial theatre production for Cirque-ability's Performance Team
- 2015** - co-Director, *Fallen*, aerial theatre production for Cirque-ability Performance Team
- 2014** - Director/choreographer, *Inertia*, short film, Construction Party, presented at CCAFT 2015, TAIS Showcase 2015, Dance: Made in Canada
- 2014** - co-collaborator, *Sublimation*, live pixelation durational performance at an art party, Construction Party
- 2014** - Art Director/concept, *'C' is for Circus*, short film, Construction Party/Hercinia Arts
- 2014** - Director/writer, *Benched*, short film, co-produced with Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2013** - *Benched*, Fleck Theatre, Dance Ontario DanceWeekend, Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2013** - *A Grand Day in The Park*, Dance Ontario DanceWeekend, Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2012** - co-Choreographer: *In Bloom*, Dufferin Grove Park, Day Of Delight, Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2012** - co-Choreographer: *Everlasting Slumber*, McManus, London Fringe, Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2012** - co-collaborator, *and now...*, live pixelation durational performance at an art party, Construction Party
- 2011** - co-Choreographer/creator: *Akasha*, short experimental animation, presented at: Halifax Independent Film Festival 2013; LOIKKA Dance Film Festival 2012; Filmo Corto in Lima, Peru 2012; TAIS Showcase 2012; Toronto Nuit Blanche 2011
- 2009** - choreographer/performer, *infestation*, Dance Ontario @ nuit blanche, Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2009** - director/co-devisor, *Lady Peasblossom's Sanctuary*, Zoofest/Just for Laughs Montreal, Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2009** - *Benched*, Dufferin Grove Park, Day Of Delight, Hercinia Arts Collective
- 2008** - *Mourning Morning*, A Choreographer's Ball/ ModClub, Da Movement

Selected Performance in Aerial Dance & Theatre

- 2009-present** - co-director and performer with Hercinia Arts Collective (www.herciniarts.com);
performing as an aerial artist on silks, straps, trapeze, triple trapeze and as a theatrical character
- 2009-present** - aerial performer with A2D2: Aerial Dance Cirque Company
corporate events and wedding performances in Toronto, Calgary and Bermuda
- 2022** - 'Construction Guys' with Hercinia Arts Collective, dir: Zita Nyarady
Brooklin Spring Fair (June 2022), Arts in the Parks Toronto (Aug 2022), Toronto Buskerfest (Sept 2022), Artsweek Peterborough (Oct 2022)
aerial and physical comedy drag street theatre show about setting up a rig
- July 2022** - 'Circus Chickens' with Trellis Arts, Incredible Edibles Festival, Campbellford, ON
durational aerial theatre performance as a flying chicken
- Spring 2022** - Red Bird in 'Tweet Tweet' with Femmes du Feu Creations, dir: Monica Dottor
Ottawa Children's Festival, Surrey Children's Festival (May 2022), Winnipeg Children's Festival (June 2022)
30 min early years (0-5 yrs) aerial dance show about two birds finding their wings
- 2022** - 'Goodbye Esther', dir: Calvin Petersen, Artists' Play Dance and Circus, Toronto
workshop debut of solo show involving clown, silks, trapeze, juggling and handstands

- 2022** - *Northern Lights* in 'Wonders of Winterland' with AP Events, art dir: Elizabeth Snell
Artists' Play Dance and Circus
4-person aerial silks performance involving creative partnering
- 2021** - 'GO/NO GO', 2nd Creation Residency & Development workshop, Kingston, ON,
dir:Angola Murdoch - *performer and co-creator in a new circus theatre show*
- 2021** - 'Otros Rostros', Uxbridge Studio Tour, Elgin Park, dir: Diana Lopez Soto
*durational performance on suspended sculptures, harness & in trees involving ritual,
mask and dance*
- 2021** - Spumoni (clown) in 'Circus Sundaes: Sweet & Salty' with Flying Solo TO,
Peterborough Public Energy 2.0 (Aug), Circus in the Trees (Oct)
- 2015-2020** - Witch 3 in 'Weird: The Witches of Macbeth', with Articus Productions
(formerly Theatre Arcturus): Lot 42 in Kitchener (Feb 2020), The Gravenhurst Opera
House (March 2019), Theatre Kraken in Ottawa (Jan/Feb 2019), Hamilton Fringe
(2018), Toronto Fringe (2016), The Algonquin Theatre in Huntsville ON (2016),
Stratford Springworks Festival (2015 & 2016), Ottawa Fringe (2015);
Aerial Theatre show - performing Shakespeare, original text and aerial silks
- 2013-2019** - Esther in 'The Stupendous Silver Sisters' (formerly 'The Grand Dee Circus')
with Hercinia Arts Collective: Arts in the Parks Toronto, Toronto Buskerfest, Ottawa
Buskerfest, Tillsonburg Turtlefest (2019), Toronto Buskerfest, Cobourg Buskerfest, In
the Soil Arts Festival (2013)
character-driven street theatre aerial circus show, slapstick trapeze
- 2012-2019** - 'Money Fish Dance' with Hercinia Arts Collective: Play the Fool Festival
Edmonton, Montreal Clown Festival, Arts in the Parks (2019), Speakeasy at Revival,
Plunge Cabaret (2018), Lunacy Cabaret (2015), In the Soil Arts Festival (2014), Lunacy
Cabaret (2012)
comedy dance cabaret routine
- 2019** - 'Chesh's Tale', Forest/Fire in Kitchener (March 2019), Lunacy Cabaret Toronto (Jan
2019), A Night in Paris Soiree (Jan 2019)
clown performance on aerial silks
- April 2018** - '(re)moving Graffiti', De Gevleugelde Stad in Ieper, Belgium; Hercinia Arts,
performance artist embodying street art through theatre, dance & guerrilla aerial
- Jan 2018** - 'GO/NO GO', Creation Residency & Development workshop, The Freezer, Rif,
Iceland; *performer and co-creator in a new circus theatre show*
- Jan-Oct 2017** - 'Nomadic Tempest', Caravan Stage Company
*performing as an aerialist and central character in an experimental opera on a tall ship
touring Florida, Louisiana, Texas & British Columbia*
- Dec 2016** - 'Esther', Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto; part of Body Brake, produced by
Anandam DanceTheatre
durational theatrical character performance culminating in 5 min aerial silks finale
- 2015-16** - 'HASA: the aerial space show' with Hercinia Arts Collective: The Junction
Solstice Festival; Buskers on the Bay Festival, Saint John NB; Halifax International
Buskers Festival, Halifax NS; Bradford Carrotfest ON (2016), PC Buskerfest, Port
Credit ON (2015)
Outdoor Aerial Dance Show - performing solo aerial straps and duo aerial hoop
- 2015-16** - 'The Flying Machine', with Hercinia Arts Collective: CK Youth Festival (2016),
Toronto Buskerfest (2015)
Aerial Street Theatre show -performing aerial rope, dance trapeze and as a character
- 2015** - 'Gargoyles' and 'Money Fish', Dubai Comedy Festival, Dubai UAE,
with Hercinia Arts Collective
performing as comedic characters - a human gargoyle and acrobatic movement artist
- 2015** - feature performer in Milk Commercial, Zero Gravity Circus
- 2014** - 'Cascade', Nuit Blanche Toronto, Anandam Dancetheatre, dir: Brandy Leary;
performing on aerial rope as part of large scale group installation

- 2014** - 'In Ex Windows', Transitional Spaces, Contemporary Circus Arts Festival Toronto,
dir: Kirsten Edwards;
performing on aerial loops as part of a durational group piece
- 2013 & 2014** - 'The Chaos Project', presented at 'A Spectacle of Play' and 'Contemporary Circus Arts Festival Toronto', dir: Kirsten Edwards;
performing on aerial rope and dance trapeze as part of two large group pieces
- 2013** - Rose in 'Everlasting Slumber', Hamilton Fringe Festival, Hercinia Arts Collective;
duo aerial hoop artist, co-choreographer and character performer in an aerial theatre show
- 2013** - Alice in 'Cirque Wonderland', Markham Theatre, A2D2;
lead character and straps artist in an aerial theatre show
- 2011** - 'The 477th Greatest Show On Earth!', Gevleulde Stad Ieper, Belgium & Scotiabank Toronto Buskerfest (2010), Suspended Animation Circus;
clown and aerial straps performer, suspended from giant helium balloon as part of street theatre show
- 2011** - ensemble in 'Mariner', Guelph Theatre, Risk the Void, dir. Joseph Pagnan;
theatrical movement-rich adaptation of poem The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
- 2011** - Jen in 'The Lifeboat is Sinking', Ryerson University, dir. Joseph Pagnan;
lead character in theatrical production
- 2007-2009** - company member, Toronto Aerial Dance,
performer on aerial silks and straps, dance and character work for various corporate & festival events
- 2008** - 'Zeus's Box', Pride Gala, Suspended Animation Circus;
lead character performer and writer for gala event
- 2006** - 'The Royal Flush', Fallsview Casino Niagara Falls, SmartCulture
(direction: Thom Sokoloski & Jenny-Anne McCowan);
circus installation: performer on stilts, aerial silks and as a movement artist
- 2001-2006** - company member, Cirque Sublime;
solo & synchro aerial silks and character performer for various corporate and festival events
- 2005** - 'Pendulum', Ontario Tour, Cirque Sublime;
trio synchro aerial silks performer and chinese pole animation on large scale arena show

Education/Training

- current** - Standard First Aid & CPR certification, Canadian Red Cross, expires August 2022
- 2011-2019** - Handstand classes, Inverted Equilibrium, Christopher Taylor
- 2019** - Clown Bootcamp, Manitoulin Conservatory of Creation and Performance,
John Turner
- 2018** - Dancing Clown, weekend workshop in Toronto, Grindl Kuchirka
- 2018** - Clown Through Mask (Baby Clown), Manitoulin Conservatory of Creation and Performance, John Turner
- 2018** - Mime: The Actor's Art of Movement workshop, Guiseppe Condello
- 2015** - various aerial technique workshops, Contemporary Circus Arts Festival Toronto, The Collective Space - teachers Sarah Poole, Jonathan Fortin
- 2014** - *Rigging for Aerial Acrobatics, Circus and Dance, Advanced Topics*, LDI Conference, Las Vegas USA
- 2014** - various aerial technique & rigging workshops, Contemporary Circus Arts Festival Toronto, The Collective Space - teachers Laura Stokes, Angola Murdoch, Liz Cooper, Elsie Smith, Peter Boulanger
- 2014** - *Introduction to Teaching Aerials* certification, Nimble Arts/NECCA, Elsie Smith
- 2013** - *Rencontre de Aeriens*, aerial conference including workshops and collaborations with other aerialists, Toulouse, France

- 2013** - various aerial and pedagogy workshops, Contemporary Circus Arts Festival Toronto, The Collective Space - teachers Sarah Poole, Angela Murdoch, Rebecca Leonard, Elsie Smith
- 2013** - *Bouffon Workshop*, Adam Lazarus, Toronto
- 2013** - *Tieing Knots for Aerial Rigging*, Sabrina Pringle, Toronto
- 2013** - various aerial workshops, Sky Candy, Austin, Texas
- 2012** - *Fall Arrest & Lift Operator Certification*, Dwight Crane Ltd, Toronto ON
- 2009** - *Rigging Fundamentals Workshop*, D & R Rigging, Toronto ON
- 2002 -2007** - *BFA program in Theatre Performance: Acting*, Ryerson University, Toronto ON
teachers/mentors: Ian Watson (Shakespeare), Philippa Domville, Vicky St Denis & Viv Moore (dance, movement), Leah Cherniak (clown), Marianne McIsaac & Cynthia Asperger (acting technique), Peter Wylde (acting technique, grammar & period acting), Perry Schneiderman (commedia, neutral mask), Irene Pauzer (voice & speech)
- 2005** - *Intermediate Actor Combatant Certification*, Fight Directors Canada
- 1997-2002** - Toronto School of Circus Arts, apprentice performer/student
teachers/mentors: Rebecca Leonard, Natasha Danchenko, Erin Michie, Rachel Jacobs, Jessica Barrera, Stacy Clark (aerial)
Wen Lu (basic acrobatics)
Linda Evans (fitness, muscle conditioning, flexibility)
Jenny-Anne McCowan, Kathleen Rea, Malgorzata Nowacka (movement/dance)
- 1995-1997** - Main Space School of Circus Arts, circus student
teachers/mentors: Marsha Kennington, Ginger Ana Kennington

Awards/Grants

- 2021** - *Contemporary Circus Research/Creation Grant*, audience development workshop for solo circus-theatre show Goodbye Esther, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2021** - *Contemporary Circus Research/Creation Grant*, creation of 5 short animations based on clown research & performance, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2020** - *Digital Originals Grant*, creation of a short film combining hand balancing, dance and rotoscope animation, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2019** - *Contemporary Circus Research/Creation Grant*, creation of a solo clown-circus show, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2018** - *Professional Development Grant*, continued training in clown through the Manitoulin Conservatory of Creation and Performance, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2018** - *Theatre Recommender Grant through Suitcase in Point*, creation of a multi-disciplinary installation involving street art, dance and circus integrated into a live performance at the In the Soil Arts Festival, Ontario Arts Council
- 2014** - *Inter-Arts Creation/Production Grant*, creation of a short independent animated aerial film, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2013** - *Travel Grant*, Travel to Toulouse, France for participation in 'Rencontre de Aeriens', Canada Council for the Arts