

# Erinina Ness

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# EMN

## Objective

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*"I want to increase global communication by creating powerful and spectacular art that creates dialogue through the asking of questions. I believe in inspiring people past their ideas of the impossible, opening hidden doorways to possibility."*

## Aerial Performing Experience

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### Inventor of the Fire Trapeze

2010-ongoing

Invented and perform on my own patented, unique trapeze, in which I light the ropes on Fire. In 2010, I had a dream that I lit the ropes of my trapeze on fire. I was told that it was impossible. Thanks to some crucial supporters, I succeeded at creating the act. For me, Circus is about showcasing seemingly impossible spectacles with the message that our impossible dreams are not only possible, but in all likelihood meant to be.

### Texas Aerial Festival: Professional Aerial Burlesque Champ 2015

Winner of the Professional Aerial Burlesque Category at this Texas Aerial Competition.

### Crash Alchemy

2013-2015

Performed theater, dance, and aerial for Crash Alchemy with interactive 3D mapping and projections at Art Outside, Euphoria Festival, Maggie Mae's Red Bull Residency, and Lagunitas Brewing Company's Couchtrippin' Tour. Created multiple interactive characters for various events.

### New Year's Eve with MOBY (by Unicorn Meat)

NYE 2013

Performed solo pieces for pre show party, then dance trapeze over the crowd for Moby's set.

### Espana Family Aerialists

2012

Performed on Spanish Web, Motorcycle Highwire, and Cyclone with this famous aerial family in a traditional American Tent Circus tour with Fusion Circus.

### Best of Galapagos Art Space

2011-2013

Performed aerial and burlesque as a recurring act at this former Brooklyn iconic space.

### Immersive Surfaces Project

2011

Performed aerial harness for Johnny Moreno and Rachael Shane as part of an international collaboration of 20 different artists projecting 3D mapped film onto the Manhattan Bridge as part of the Dumbo Arts Festival.

### 60x60 with House of Yes at NYC Dance Parade

2011

Performed Static Trapeze in collaboration with various dancers and musicians. 60 different dancers or ensembles were paired with 60 different musicians to each create a 60 second piece, which combined together for one hour of constant dance and musical experience.

### Dreamtime Circus Peruvian Tour

2010

Co-created and performed as an aerialist and as a fire dancer. Traveled and taught aerial circus skills as a volunteer for 2 months in multiple communities, orphanages and schools in Peru with San Francisco based company, Dreamtime Circus.

## Collaborative Performing and Directing Experience

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### **Kabarette with a K!-Founding Producer**

**2013-ongoing**

Producer of this Austin Kabarette experience that brings together artists in all fields around a common theme.

### **Charlie Chaplin**

**2011-ongoing**

Impersonator of this physical theatre icon, I perform ground and aerial acts in classic to modern style.

### **How to be a Doll-Original Collaborative Work**

**2008**

Performed in this collaborative physical theatre ensemble led by Genevieve Gearhart, written by Alyssa Riccardeli about coming of age, and the female search for self amongst societal expectations.

### **Rods and Cables-Original Workshop**

**2007**

Originated the role of the *Sultry Flight Attendant* in the workshop of this macabre physical exploration of sex and identity written and directed by Allison Keating for 3 Legged Dog Media & Theater Group.

### **If There's Jack-in-the-Box, Get Out!-Original Work**

**2005-2006**

Originally developed as a solo show at Sarah Lawrence College, developed into a duet of spoken word and physical theater written and performed by myself and Evan Shafran. Selected as an Artists of Tomorrow Selection by Six Figures Theater Company in 2006, reproduced by Groove Mama Ink at the Gene Frankel Theater.

### **Passing-Original Collaborative Work**

**2005-2006**

Performed in this collaborative physical theater ensemble led by Nana Dakin about race and identity in America. Performed at the Historic Wow Café in NYC, reproduced for Wow Café's Bloom Festival.

### **A Chuck Mee Excerpt**

**2006**

Danced in this revival led by Genevieve Gearhart, about violence and femininity produced by the Historic Wow Café's Bloom Festival.

### **Axis Mundi, The Hidden Forest Project-Original Work**

**2006**

Choreographed and Assistant Directed this dance and physical theater piece with Melissa Shaw about deforestation and its connections to violence, McDonald's, mythology and children's stories for Downstage Productions at Sarah Lawrence College.

### **HEAR NYC-Original Work**

**2007**

Conceived, Directed and Co-Produced this film, sound and theatrical installation of alienation in NYC. An exploration of various distinctive classes, races and locations as they collide and resist each other, actors took actual overheard conversations in distinctive neighborhoods of the city, developed them into scenes and clips and improvised them fresh each night with audience interaction on a stage built as a subway car, while 5 televisions projected different images and sounds recorded from the city.

### **Mir Productions-Founding Artistic Director**

**2005-2008**

Mir Productions was an interdisciplinary theater company that aims to create art that crosses and breaks down cultural and language boundaries by supporting new work and exploring multimedia theatrical formats. Mir Productions produced 6 Main Stage Shows of Original New Work in 2 years, brought Yosef bar-Yosef (winner of the Israel Prize) to tour Princeton, Hofstra, Yale, and Columbia with help of the Israeli Consulate of NYC, produced 2 development workshops for emerging creatives, and produced a reading series of playwrights of diversity called Unseen/Unheard

## Education

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### **Oxford School of Drama-Summer Intensive Programme      2001**

Trained in Acting and Physical Theater for the Summer Programme at this school, founded by George Peck, which is rated as one of the top 5 acting schools in the world.

### **Sarah Lawrence College-Bachelors of Arts      2005**

Studied Acting, Physical Theater and Directing under the direction of Shirley Kaplan, also studying Visual Art, Languages and Writing.

### **Circus Warehouse-Professional Aerial School      2011**

Studied in the inaugural class of NYC's first professional Aerial & Circus School-focus on Static Trapeze and Aerial Silks

### **Acrobats of the Heart-Grotowski Intensive      2012**

Practiced the work of Jerzy Grotowski under Stephen Wangh, Raina von Waldenburg, and Erica Fae.

### **Arcos Professional Dance & Theater-Movement Intensive      2016**

Received a Scholarship to study dance and work with dancers as a theater creator on a work in progress.

## Teaching Experience

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### **Group Fitness Instructor-Castle Hill Fitness      2014-2016**

Worked in membership, and teaching Barre and HIIT style fitness classes.

### **Youth Director & Aerial Instructor-Four Elements Studio      2013-2016**

Designed Kids Program, taught Kid Circus, Static & Dance Trapeze, Spanish Web, and Aerial Silks.

### **Aerial Instructor-Circus Smirkus      2011 & 2014**

Taught ages 6-18 years in Aerial Fabric, Trapeze, Lyra, and Rope.

## Skills and Awards

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Theater Director and Event Producer

Professional Aerial and Fitness Instructor

2 Decades of Practice and Training in Laban and Viewpoints Physical Theater

Writer, Burlesque Dancer, Model, Painter, and Crafter

Properties, Set Construction, and Scenic Artistry Experience

2001 Irene Ryan Nomination for Acting work in Steven Dietz' Handing Down the Names

2006 Artists of Tomorrow Selection by Six Figures Theater Company in NYC for If There's Jack-in-the-Box, Get Out!

2015 Professional Aerial and Burlesque Champion at Texas Aerial Festival