

# AINSLEY HILLYARD

## CONTACT



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## EDUCATION

BA Honors, University of Winnipeg  
in affiliation with the School of  
Contemporary Dancers.  
Diploma in Dance, Grant MacEwan

## AWARDS

Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund  
Award — 2024, 2015  
Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award,  
Outstanding Choreography —  
Mermaid Legs (2024), Cardiac  
Shadow (2018), Bears (2015)  
Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award  
nominations — All the Little  
Animals I Have Ever Eaten (2023),  
Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play  
(2020), Ursa Major (2016), Wish  
(2016, Outstanding Performance)

## REFERENCES

Rachel Peak  
Artistic Director, The Grand Theatre  
RPeake@grandtheatre.com

Annette Loiselle  
Former Artistic Director,  
Skirts A Fire Festival  
annette.loiselle@telus.net

## ABOUT

I'm a choreographer, performer, and educator based in Amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton). My existing artistic practice and interests lie in the liminal and expansive space between dance and theatre. I am curious about, and constantly exploring, story telling through movement; whether it is an abstract narrative without text, or a traditional play with a linear structure.

## CHOREOGRAPHER

I've choreographed large-scale musicals to intimate, contemporary one person plays. My work spans both classic and experimental theatre. I love shaping movement that supports storytelling, whether it's huge ensemble numbers or more subtle movement direction that adds to the environment or character embodiment.

Recent credits include: Frozen the Musical (Citadel Theatre / The Grand Theatre), Mermaid Legs (SkirtsAfire Festival), The Sound of Music (Citadel Theatre / The Grand Theatre / Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play (You Are Here Theatre / Blarney Productions).

## CREATOR/PERFORMER

As a creator, I make work in the charged space between dance and theatre, fusing the two into bold, risk-taking performances. Collaboration with Deaf artists is central to my practice, expanding how stories are told and experienced. I believe in a future that is accessible. My concepts and narratives push against convention, embracing disruption and surprise while always reaching for something deeply human.

Recent productions include: CAPABLE (Mile Zero Dance), Carbon Movements (SOUND OFF Deaf arts festival), Jezebel at the Still Point (Theatre Network/Intrepid Theatre).