

# TRAMWAY

Tramway, Dance North, and Glasgow  
International presents

## *Serpentine*

by Daina Ashbee

6th June 2026 2pm - 4pm

Duration: 2 hours

### AUDIENCE NOTES |

Free and Unticketed

Contains Nudity

This work is durational, audiences are invited to change point of view, exit and re-enter the room at their own discretion. The piece is performed in approximately 20-minute cycles. At the end of each cycle audiences have an opportunity to change point of view.

**RECOMMENDED FOR AGES | 18+**

**ACCESS |** Highly visual, No text

### CREDITS |

**Artistic Direction, Choreography & Scenography:**  
Daina Ashbee

**Rehearsal Director:** Gabriel Nieto

**Interpreted by:** Irène Martinez

**Original Sound Design:** Jean-Francois Blouin

**Producer:** Daina Ashbee

**Funded by** Canada Council for the Arts and British Columbia Arts Council

### PRESENTATION CREDITS |

Co-curated in collaboration with Tramway as part of RISE 2026, Dance North's Festival of Contemporary Dance and Performance. From Sat 23 May to Sat 6 June, RISE will honour global Indigenous artists whose work connects land, story, and movement worldwide. [Visit the Dance North RISE website](#)

### ARTIST NOTE |

*Serpentine* (2016), is an installation performance created by artist and choreographer Daina Ashbee. Vibrating with the essence of Daina's dark and feminine style, the work constitutes a summary of three previous pieces: *Unrelated*, 2014; *When the ice melts, will we drink the water?*, 2016; and *Pour*, 2016. In developing *Serpentine*, Daina's research explored

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For more information visit: [www.tramway.org](http://www.tramway.org)



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the occupation of space, time, and attention, evolving into a cathartic solo for the performer, Irène Martinez, based on reclamation and insistence.

Presented in 20-minute cycles that repeat and intensify, *Serpentine* incorporates simple imagery chosen to resonate with a wide audience, and is set to an original electric organ composition by Jean-Francois Blouin. The juxtaposition of the haunting, at times disturbing sounds of the organ with the slow, sensual movement gradually escalating in violence produces a powerful effect.

Daina says: "*Sometimes things need to be insisted upon, and I believe repetition is powerful because it insists, because we remember and we absorb. The body is powerful and *Serpentine* allows one body to speak—to occupy space and our attention, over and over, insistently revealing the enormous strength of the interpreter.*"

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY |

Recognized as one of the most prolific choreographers of her generation, since 2015 her work has been presented over one-hundred times in 20 countries abroad. Her work has been presented in some of the most prestigious festivals (The Venice Biennale, Oktoberdans, the Munich Dance Biennale, Montpellier Danse) and on the stages of the world.

After residing for 8 years in Montréal, in 2020 she relocated to Gabriola-Island, where she re-sources her creative and energetic practices on the west coast of Canada while she is not touring or creating abroad. Her work, firmly established in somatic and energetic practices, reinvestigates and transforms trauma and violence. Her repertoire has been recognized internationally for being unafraid, bold and brutally honest. She has created a unique artistic signature, and won numerous awards, including a 2019 New York City Bessie. [www.dainaashbee.com](http://www.dainaashbee.com)

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