## nicola van straaten

CURRICULUM VITAE

## I am a genderqueer artist, astrologer, performer and writer (they/she).

I work across multiple mediums, with an anti-colonial focus on material and immaterial systems as potential sites of positive social transformation. I was born and grew up in Durban, South Africa and I have lived and worked in France, Namibia, South Africa and Germany. My background is in contemporary dance and I am currently working as a freelance artist, performer and writer in Berlin. My key working values are:

Kindness & Criticality / Authenticity & Communication / Participation & Collaboration / Listening & Trust

## **EDUCATION:**

- 2019: University of the Arts Berlin Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz Masters in Solo / Dance / Authorship.
- 2012: University of Cape Town Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Contemporary Dance and Choreographic Studies Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Dance Studies
- 2011: University of North Carolina Greensboro Semester Abroad - Contemporary Dance and Choreography

## ARTISTIC WORK:

- 2024: Columnist for "Bodyscopes" at TanzRaumBerlin Magazine.
- 2024: Recepient of "Tanzpraxis Stipendium" 2024/2025 "Emerging Artist"
- 2023: "Sacrifice" Designed and facilitated a live action role playing game about the concept of sacrifice, based on astrological archetypes with Nadja Lipsyc. Made in the framework of Alexandre Achour's artistic research project "<u>Choreographic Games</u>" exploring the intersection between choreography and LARP.
- 2023: Performer for Xavier Le Roy's "Le Sacre du Printemps (2018)" with the Comedie Itinerante de Valence.
- 2023: "<u>Fallen!Zusammen</u>" co-created, directed, produced and performed in an open-air dance and theatre performance for children about the potential for hope in the action of collapse, with Coila-Leah Enderstein. (Supported by Offensive Tanz programme for young audiences and re-staged at the 2024 KinderSomerTheatre Festival Neukoelln.)
- 2023: "<u>Tanz macht Glücklich</u>" directed and produced artistic and archival research project, speaking with people over the age of eighty about their relationship to dance and music. (Supported by the Performing Arts Fund with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of NEUSTART KULTUR)
- 2022: "haunting with venus" a work-in-progress solo about inherited gestures, masculinity, clowns and embodiment, developed during the <u>Made in Berlin</u> Residency at Lake Studios.
- 2022: Commissioned by <u>Tanzausbildung Biennale</u> to document the 8th Tanzausbildung Biennale in Stuttgart alongside Parvathi Ramanathan.
- 2022: Invited as research fellow for the "<u>Bodies (un)protected</u>" Programme on Bodies, Art and Protection at Mousonturm, Frankfurt.

- **2022:** "<u>geistzeit</u>" co-created, directed, produced and performed in an experimental and theatrical parcours near Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin exploring the topics of colonial history and ghostly resonance with Coila-Leah Enderstein. (Supported by Supported by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media)
- 2021: "<u>how to be haunted</u>" Artistic and movement research project into colonial history and the body. Also host of the weekly Decolonial Theory Reading Group. (Supported by Dachverband Tanz in the framework of Dis-Tanz-Solo)
- **2021:** "Visitations" a site-specific performance and sound research project, with Coila-Leah Enderstein, looking at memory and public space in relationship with Euro-African colonial relations (Supported by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media).
- 2021: "<u>Crossing the Pale River</u>" co-created, directed, produced and performed in a site specific hybrid audio-walk with performances looking at personal and historical colonial narratives between southern Africa and Germany, with Coila-Leah Enderstein (Supported by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media in partnership with Tanzfabrik Berlin).
- **2021:** Participant in "<u>Landing-Nesting</u>", a research project initiated by Shelley Etkin inviting children with migration experiences to build an autonomous space together.
- 2020: Joined "<u>Stream</u>" online live art writing platform.
- 2020: Writer at the dance review portal, <u>Tanzchreiber.de</u>.
- 2019: Performer in "Retrospective" by Xavier Le Roy at the Hamburger Bahnhof Gallery, Berlin.
- 2019: Co-created, directed, produced and performed in in "<u>courtyard dances</u>", a film and sound installation and performance with Coila-Leah Enderstein at Zwitschermachine Gallery, Potsdamerstr. 161, Berlin.
- **2018:** Premier of "<u>i'm haunting you now</u>" 45-minute solo about colonial lineage and ghostly silence at Uferstudios, Berlin in the framework of final performance for Masters in Solo / Dance / Authorship.
- 2018: Organizer & participant in "<u>Live Arkive</u>", a performance exchange between artists from Windhoek, Namibia and Cape Town, South Africa investigating creative archival practices.
- **2016:** Co-founder of <u>ANY BODY ZINE</u>, a non-profit cultural organization and publication for independent dance and movement artists in southern Africa (active from 2016-2021)
- 2015: Content creator and account manager at Reach Digital Advertising Agency, Cape Town, South Africa.

Skills:	Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) Adobe InDesign Final Cut Pro 10
Languages:	English - Mother Tongue French - Intermediate (Level B2) German - Intermediate (Level B1)
References:	<i>Litò Walkey:</i> Artist and educator. Email: lito@klingt.org <i>Xavier Le Roy:</i> Choreographer and artist. Email: xavier.le.roy.11@gmail.com