

# Nadia Adame

Dance Artist, Educator, & Researcher

 Alameda, CA USA

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Over 20 years of global experience in integrated, contemporary dance performance, creation, and leadership. Conservatory trained in ballet and flamenco, with additional study in theatre, film, and circus arts.

## Teaching

I facilitate creative workshops, critical thinking, and embodied exploration of dance and disability, inclusive performance, and teacher training.

My pedagogy promotes practical solutions and advocates for a broader, more expansive understanding of corporeality.

## Research

My scholarship lies at the intersection of dance production, disability, and embodied performance, exploring how disabled bodies challenge, reshape, and expand conventions.

### My practice as research

interrogates dominant narratives of virtuosity, ability, and aesthetics within dance and performance.

## Artistry

My work bridges dance, disability arts, and theater. I bring this interdisciplinary and inclusive ethos to all aspects of my creative work.

## Highlights of Professional Experience

Details and more examples are included on subsequent pages

- Artistic Director, AXIS Dance Company 2022 - present  
*Berkeley, CA*  
Led the development and execution of the company's artistic vision through repertoire curation, choreography, casting, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement.
- Guest Lecturer / Speaker 2003 - present  
*Various Universities and Organizations Worldwide*  
Including UC Berkeley, Stanford University, CalArts, Lincoln Centre, Universidad Nacional Costa Rica, and Jacob's Pillow.
- Performer 2000 - present  
*Various Companies Worldwide*  
Original work with or by Mikhail Baryshnikov, Bill T. Jones, Stephen Petronio, Arthur Pita, Rafael Bonachela, and others.
- Co-Director and Co-Founder, Compañía Y 2003 - 2013  
*Madrid, Spain & London, UK*  
Co-led the first professional company dedicated to integrating and promoting the work of disabled performing artists in Spain.

## Representative Awards, Grants, and Research Initiatives

- Fullbright Specialist, Costa Rica 2025
- Hewlett 50 Grant for AXIS Dance Company 2024
- Melon Foundation Grant for AXIS Dance Company 2022
- IFTR Exchange Leader, Barcelona 2009
- Certamen Coreográfico (Award), Madrid 2006
- Isadora Duncan Dance (Award), San Francisco 2003

## Publications

- (2026, under review). *Redefining My Identity as a Disabled Dancer in the Face of Tradition*. In Hammer, G., Ames, M., and Sunandan Honisch, S. (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Dance and Disability*. Oxford UP.
- (2023). *Putting Myself Into Different Spaces: A Performer's Journey Through World Stages*. In Czymoch, C., Maguire-Rosier, K., & Schmidt, Y. (Eds.). *How Does Disability Performance Travel?: Access, Art, and Internationalization* (1st ed.). Routledge.

## Education

- University of Colorado, Boulder 1996-1999  
Bachelor of Arts, Theater and Spanish  
After the Dance program would not accept me due to my disability, I earned a dual major in more welcoming departments.
- Royal Conservatory of Dance and Drama, Madrid 1982-1989  
No degree acquired due to a spinal cord injury before graduation. Seven years of training in ballet and flamenco techniques.

## Executive and Administrative Roles

Artistic Director, AXIS Dance Company                      2022 - Present                      Berkeley, CA

- Define and implement the artistic vision and direction of the company.
- Choreograph multiple company projects; accompanied the company on all tours.
- Curate and commission new choreographic works that expand the aesthetics of dance and disability.
- Direct rehearsals, productions, and touring repertoire, ensuring artistic excellence and cohesion.
- Mentor and support company dancers and collaborators to foster professional and artistic growth.
- Build partnerships with artists, institutions, and communities to advance inclusive dance practices.
- Develop educational programs and workshops to engage diverse student populations.
- Collaborated with administrative staff on season planning, fundraising, and audience development.
- Represent the dance company in public settings and establish a positive image.

Administrative and Special Project Coordinator, Mérida Labs    2019 - 2022    University of British Columbia

- Oversaw the research, creation, and implementation of content to advance communications goals.
- Developed and edited media and printed materials for promotion of the lab and the researchers.
- Managed and developed administrative policies and procedures to meet operating needs.
- Analyzed the development of project life cycles, anticipating and mitigating potential risks and providing tactical advice on and action towards the resolution of issues as they arose.

Assistant to the Associate Deans, College of Applied Science    2018 - 2019    University of British Columbia

- Coordinated complex scheduling and academic calendars for multiple Associate Deans.
- Facilitated communication between students, faculty, staff, and external partners.
- Collaborated with finance/administrative teams on budget tracking, expenses, and compliance.
- Served as liaison among faculty, students, and external partners, fostering collaborative relationships across diverse communities.

Co-Founder and Co-Director, Compañía y                      2003 - 2014                      Spain and the UK

- Co-Conceived, developed, advocated, and programmed for the artistic vision of the company.
- Commissioned and developed 15+ dance, theatre, music, video, and other artistic projects.
- Presented professional integrated dance to Spain through touring, press, and educational initiatives.
- Developed partnerships and collaborated closely with a range of artists, producers, and funders.
- Identified, secured, developed, and managed financial resources for the company.
- Hired, managed, and developed artists, production, and admin teams, with a focus on diversity.
- Designed and delivered workshops, panels, and talks about DEIB for people with disabilities.
- Public representative of the company to the public, press, academic and professional bodies.
- Performed in and choreographed multiple company projects; accompanied the company on all tours.
- Developed, trained and supported freelance vendors, contractors, and independent artists.

## Choreography / Research Practice

- *A Christmas Carol*. Center Rep, Walnut Creek. (In production)
- *Kinematic / Kinesthetic*. AXIS Dance Co. Robotics and performance project.  
Funded by Hewlett 50, MAP, and the Kenneth Rainin Foundation.
- *Piel de Luna*. AXIS Dance Co. Funded by a New Music USA grant.
- *Breathe Again*. AXIS Dance Co.
- *Historias Rotas*. Commissioned by AXIS Dance Co., under the leadership of Marc Brew.  
Presented at Jacob's Pillow 2023
- *El último adiós*. Commissioned by AXIS Dance Co., under the leadership of Judith Smith.
- *The Dolls of New Albion: A Steampunk Opera*. Compañía y (UK). Grant recipient from Arts Council England.
- *Despedida*. Compañía y (Spain). Recipient of a residency award at the Teatros Canal in Madrid.
- *Un instante*. Compañía y.
- *Aquí y ahora hacen un mañana*. Compañía y.
- *9 días y 20 horas a la deriva*. Compañía y.
- *Marionette*. Compañía y. Recipient of a residency award from the Certamen Coreográfico Madrid. (Spain)
- *Oceans in Violent Blue*. Compañía y. Grant recipient from Asociación Cultural Por La Danza (Madrid).
- *Creep*. With Asun Noales for Otra Danza. Videodance.

## Dancer

- *And Who Shall Go to the Ball?* Rafael Bonachela for CandoCo Dance Company (UK).
- *The Stepfather*. Arthur Pita for CandoCo Dance Company.  
The previous two pieces toured to six countries that including performances in the following venues:  
Queen Elizabeth Hall. London, UK (900 seats)  
Al-Hussein Cultural Center Theater. Amman, Jordan (535 seats)  
Teatro Lope de Vega. Sevilla, Spain (749 seats)  
Theatre Basel. Basel, Switzerland (850 seats)
- *Construct*. Davis Robertson for VSA/CIR & AXIS Dance Company. Trio danced with Mikhail Baryshnikov.  
Terrace Theater in the Kennedy Centre. Washington D.C. (490 seats)
- *Fantasy in C Major*. Bill T. Jones for AXIS Dance Company.
- *Secret Ponies*. Stephen Petronio for AXIS Dance Company.
- *Suite Sans Suite*. Sonya Delwaide for AXIS Dance Company.  
The previous three pieces were part of a US tour that including performances in the following venues:  
The Eisenhower Theater in the Kennedy Center. Washington DC (1,164 seats)  
Jeanne Wagner Theatre / Cultural Olympiad. Salt Lake City, UT (501seats)  
Cowell Theatre. San Francisco. (437 seats)  
Malonga Casquelourd Theatre. Oakland, CA (350 seats)
- *Sans Instruments*. Sonya Delwaide for AXIS Dance Company. US tour.
- *Stepmother / Stepfather*. Arthur Pita for Open Heart Productions. UK tour.
- *Dreams 2*. Juan Carlos Nieto for Global Events. Performed in Coliseum, A Coruña, Spain. (11,000 seats)
- *Afán*. A. Noales and A. Sagardoy for Patas Arriba. Spanish tour.

## Dancer (continued)

- *Turning the Inside Out*. Marc Brew for Marc Brew Company. Site specific event in London, UK.
- *My Reflection*. Chevi Muraday for Compañía y. Spanish and French tour.
- *Decime*. Emilia Comínguez for Compañía y. Spanish tour.
- *Querido Antonin*. Cristina Rocha for Compañía y. Spanish tour.
- *Modernismo*. Mark Swetz for Compañía y. Spanish tour.
- *Autumn into Winter*. Eric Kupers for Compañía y. Spanish tour.
- *Envolée*. Nancy Spanier for Compañía y. Spanish and French tour.
- *Despedida*. Dancer and choreographer for Compañía y. Spanish and USA tour.
- *Marionnette*. Dancer and choreographer for Compañía y. Spanish tour.
- *Stories Written Under the Skin*. Eric Kupers for Dandelion Dancetheatre. San Francisco.
- *Dreaming Awake*. John Killacky videodance project. San Francisco.

## Special Projects

- Disability and Ecology Performance Exchange, UCLA directed and produced by Victoria Marks (2025).
- *Come the Dawn*. AXIS Dance Co. 2023 Opening Ceremony of the Invictus Games in Düsseldorf, Germany.
- Finger Dancer. *Sony Ericsson Mobile Phones*. Produced by Sony Ericsson (UK).
- Inauguration of the Royal Festival Hall, London (UK) by Athina Vahla, for CandoCo Dance Company, (2008).

## Other Representative Performance Roles

### Theatre

- Cassandra in *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*. Directed by Jyl Hewston for Redwood Curtain Theatre.
- Dean Catherine Kenney in *Spinning into Butter*. Directed by Cassandra Hesseltine for Humboldt State U.
- Běla Helclová (Lead) in *kolážh*. Directed by Mark Swetz for Compañía y (Spain).
- Noelia (Lead) in *Antídoto*. Directed by Mark Swetz for Compañía y (Spain).
- Woman (One-person show) *In the Tunnel*. Directed by Mark Swetz for Compañía y (UK).
- Nadia (One-person show) *Café des Inoconnus*. Directed by Sonya Delwaide for Compañía y (Spain).
- Woman (Lead) in *Blue Lips*. Directed by Mark Swetz for Shotgun Players (Berkeley).
- Woman 1 (Lead) in *Parade*. Directed by Mike Ward for PEP Productions (Berkeley).
- Muchacha in *Yerma*. Directed by Jennifer Rincón for Su teatro (Boulder, CO).

### Film / Actor

- Lydia (Lead) in *Filum*. Directed by C. Hernandez (Canada). Best Long Short at Berlin Flash Film Festival (DE).
- Virginia (Lead) in *Watching Virginia*. Directed by Nahuel Losada. Short (UK).
- Hattie in *Caddie Tales for the 99 Percenters*. Directed by John Doherty. Short (USA).
- Vicky (Lead) in *Invalid*. Directed by Mark Swetz. Short (UK).
- Woman in White (Lead) in *Alto Riesgo*. Directed by Nahuel Losada. Short (Spain).
- Self in *En un segundo*. Directed by Tomás Martínez. Documentary (Spain).
- Self in *Album de familia*. Directed by Frank Toro. Documentary (Spain).

## Workshop Facilitator / Guest Lecturer

### Teacher Training: Access and Integration in Dance Education

- UC Berkeley
- Stanford University
- CalArts (California Institute of the Arts)
- Lincoln Center (online)
- Universidad Nacional Costa Rica
- Anderson University (South Carolina, online)
- Alonzo King LINES Ballet
- Berkeley Ballet Theater

### Integrated Dance Practice, Technique, and Choreography

- Spelman College (Atlanta)
- University of Leeds (UK)
- Luminous Soul (UK)
- Hoot (UK)
- CandoCo Dance Company (UK)
- University of Cáceres, MA Students (Spain)
- Conservatorio Superior de Danza de Alicante (Spain)
- Conservatorio Superior de Danza de Madrid (Spain)
- Royal Opera House / SaludArte (Spain)
- Fundación ONCE (Spain)
- Center for the Physically Disabled (Spain)
- ASPRONA [Disabled Persons Association] (Spain)
- Project "Salta," Inditex (Spain)
- Ya Danza Junior (Costa Rica)
- University of Toledo (Spain)
- Conservatorio Superior de Danza de Madrid, Masterclass for MA Students (Spain)

## Professional Mentor

- Alaja Badalich - dancer/choreographer
- Anna Gichan- dancer/choreographer
- Swetha - dancer/choreographer
- Brian Golden - dancer/choreographer
- Aliya Kerimujiang - dancer/choreographer
- Larissa Velez-Jackson - dancer/choreographer
- Davian Robinson - dancer/choreographer
- Sammie Murray - dancer/choreographer
- Sonya Rio-Glick - dancer/choreographer
- Pelenakeke Brown - dancer/choreographer
- Michelle Mantione - dancer/choreographer
- Alba Fernández Alba - dancer/choreographer
- Clairey Evangelho - dancer/choreographer
- Dawn States - dancer

## Awards / Honors / Grants

- Fulbright Specialist, Accessibility in the Performing Arts. Costa Rica. 2025.
- Nominated for the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts (National). 2024.
- Nominated to The D-30 Disability Impact List. Diversability. 2024.
- Mellon Foundation Grant, increased the grant for AXIS Dance Company by \$300K. 2022.
- New Music Grant, for the piece *Piel de Luna* for AXIS Dance Company. 2024.
- UK Arts Council England for *The Dolls of New Albion: A Steampunk Opera*. Compañía y. 2012.
- Finalist, Best Choreography. Certamen Coreográfico Madrid. 2006.
- Asociación Cultural Por La Danza Grant for the piece *Oceans in Violent Blue*. 2005.
- Isadora Duncan Award, Best Ensemble Performance with Jaques Poulin-Denis. San Francisco. 2003.

## Presenter

- “Access Guide to Presenting and Touring in the Performing Arts.” 2025.
  - DanceUSA Conference
  - Association of Performing Arts Professionals Conference
  - International Association of Venue Managers Conference
  - “Accessibility in the Performing Arts.” Keynote Speaker, Academic Year Inauguration. Universidad Nacional Costa Rica.
- “Perspectives on Performance and Disability in Spain.”  
International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR) Conference. Barcelona, Spain. 2003.
- Conference on Social Inclusion. Casa Encendida. Madrid, Spain. 2002.

## Committees / Service / Community Work / Professional Associations

- Current Member, DanceUSA; Deaf and Disability Network & Artistic Directors Network. 2022-Present.
- Co-Chair, DEIA Advisory Board Member. Opus 1 Foundation. 2025.
- Panelist and Reviewer for “How We Move”, funded by The Mellon Foundation. 2025.
- Panelist and Reviewer, Creative Youth Awards. Bay Area Creative Foundation. 2025.
- Juror. San Francisco Dance Film Festival. 2023.
- Juror. 36<sup>th</sup> Certamen Coreográfico de Madrid (Spain). 2022.
- Vice-President and Board Member. Humboldt / Del Norte Film Commission. 2014 - 2015.
- Past Member, Actors Equity Association (UK).
- Past Member, Asociación de Profesionales de la Danza (Spain).

## Languages

- Bilingual Spanish and English
- Intermediate ASL

## Citizenship / Right to Work

- USA
- Spain / European Union