



HUNTER COLLEGE
DANCE DEPARTMENT

FALL '21 HONORS SHOW

works by kai chen
and riia pulakka

NOVEMBER 19 & 20
AT 7.30PM
THE PEGGY (TH 601)
@ HUNTER COLLEGE

Free Admission
(tickets required)
[@huntercollegedance](#)



Riia Pulakka (she/her) was born and raised in Nokia, Finland. She spent 17 years doing aesthetic group gymnastics, traveled and worked around the world, and settled in New York City. After getting her BA in Dance and BA in Early Childhood Education, she plans to teach children and dance her way somewhere as she is figuring out what to do next. At Hunter, Riia has taken classes with Blakeley White-McGuire, Pedro Ruiz and Alberto Del Saz, and danced in dance films choreographed by Rena Butler and Sidra Bell.

Riia's choreography is a continuation of her exploration of tunnels and circles that she started in Fall 2020 by choreographing and creating a dance film, "To Tunnel Through," which is an Idaho Screendance Festival 2020/2021 Award winner. In Spring 2021 Riia choreographed "Elliptic Orbits" for the Hunter College Kaye Playhouse stage and then created an experimental dance film of it, and it was an Astoria Film Festival 2021 Official Selection. "looping escape" is the last segment of the trilogy, for now, and explores the multiple ways the props can be manipulated.

looping escape

Choreographer – Riia Pulakka

Dancers – Kai Chen, Brianna Barefoot, Nadia Conway,
Ashley Cortes-Ose, Abigail Kenoyer, Alyssa Madden,
Ruth Montoya, Sahamanta Ojeda,
Samantha Scully, Margaret Moore, Francesca Whittle

Composer – Eepi Ursin

Mentor – Maura Nguyen Donohue

Costume Design – Riia Pulakka

Lighting Design – Burke Brown

Process Assistant – Abigail Kenoyer

Special Thanks – Maura Nguyen Donohue, Alberto Del Saz,
Jessica Nicoll, David Capps, Burke Brown,
Darvejon Jones, Gia Mongell,
Kai Chen, Jing Guo, Elizabeth Qian



Kai Chen (they/she) is a 21 year old at Hunter College, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Dance.

They are a dancer and choreographer currently based in New York City and they plan to continue to pursue dance post-graduation. They've performed with Monica Bill Barnes & Company on a number of occasions, including for Fall For Dance at New York City Center in 2019. They were also a part of MBB&Co.'s first online show, "Keep Moving". They hope to increase accessibility of dance and continue to bring dance to new audiences.

Kai's work is particularly based on experimentation and exploration. They have produced two dance films in their time at Hunter, "it seems like the world is watching: 1.26 million and counting" and "just another step,". "funny, right?" is about identity and transformations within societies and communities.





funny, right?

Choreographer - Kai Chen

Dancers - Abigail Kenoyer, Ruth Montoya,
Francesca Whittle, Riia Pulakka, Sarah Jones,
Shiori Kitakoga, Angelina Romero, Leilani Pena,
Mateo Garcia, Emma DeGroff, Nicole Polovinka,
Hallie Langaigne, Michael Peterson, Amelie Stevens

Mentor - Maura Nguyen Donohue

Costume Design - Kai Chen

Lighting Design - Julieta Rodriguez-Cruz

Special Thanks - Alberto Del Saz, Jessica Nicoll,
Darvejon Jones, Gia Mongell, Riia Pulakka, Elizabeth Qian,
Maura Nguyen Donohue, David Capps



Honors Show Production Team

Production Manager - Burke Brown

Stage Manager - Rachele Domond

Assistant Stage Manager / Wardrobe - Isabella O'Connell

Light Board / Sound Operator - Angel Kinney

Backstage - Kiara Gonzalez, Erin Peske

Special thanks to Hunter College
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supporting us and the creation of
these works.

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College Student Activity Fund.