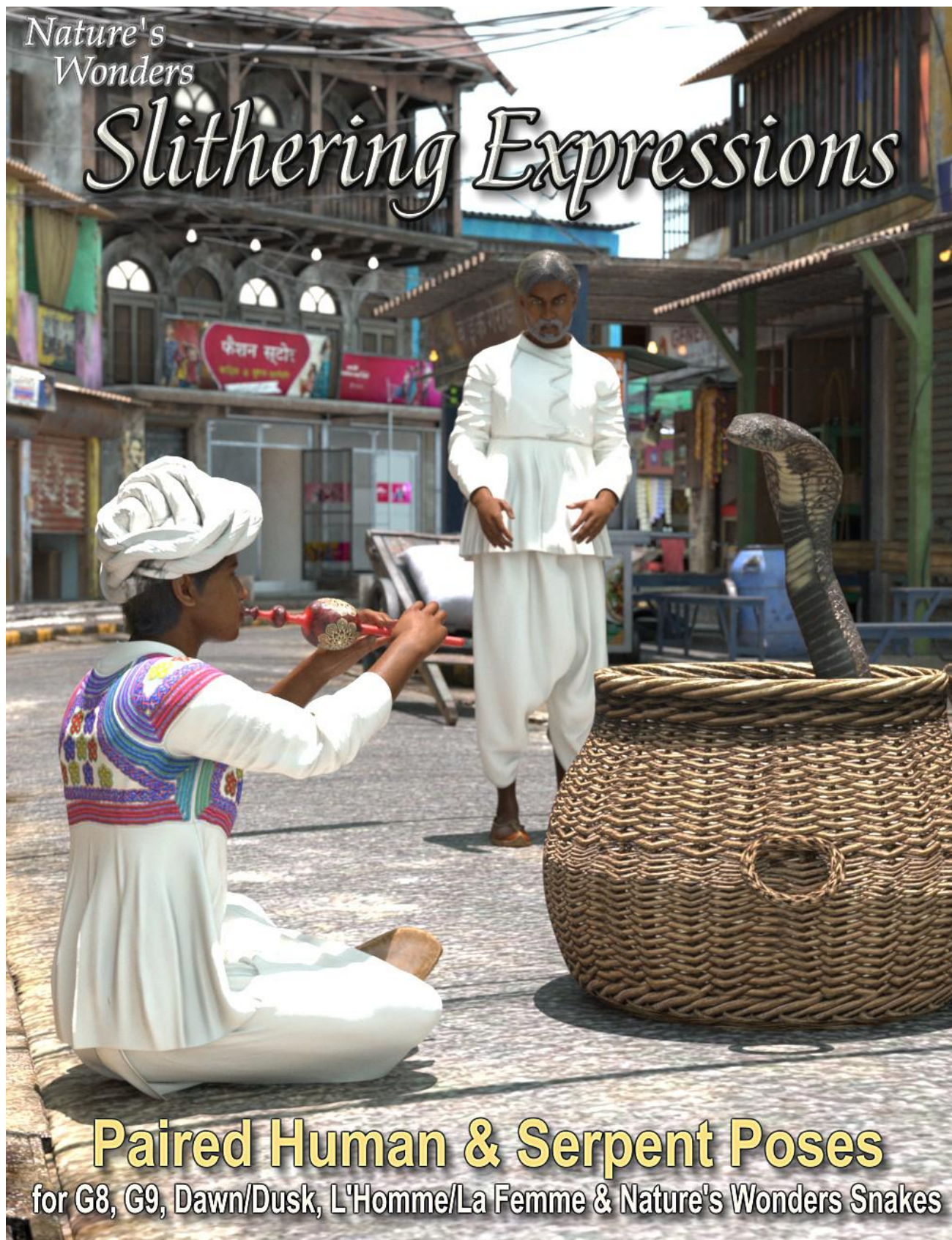


Nature's
Wonders

Slithering Expressions



Paired Human & Serpent Poses

for G8, G9, Dawn/Dusk, L'Homme/La Femme & Nature's Wonders Snakes

Poses & Models by Ken Gilliland

Slithering Expressions

Introduction

This set takes 4 iconic poses that pair humans with snakes. These 4 poses are inspired from the ancient practice of “snake charming”, the Hopi Indian Rattlesnake Dance, the “Mother of the Wendol” (from the movie, 13th Warrior) and the actress and serpent poster from the 1980’s.

“Slithering Expressions” poses uses both male and female figures (DAZ Studio version: G8, G9, and Dawn/Dusk; Poser Version: La Femme/L’homme and Dawn/Dusk) along with Snakes found in Nature’s Wonders Snakes (Western Diamondback and Egyptian Cobra) and Nature’s Wonders Snakes of the World V1 (Coral Snake, Ball Python and King Cobra). Because the Nature’s Wonders base snake model is generic, it is possible to other species from the set if you choose, with minor alterations.

The set also comes the props needed for snake charming; a Wicker basket (in 2 sizes) and a traditional Snake Flute. The props support the Iray, 3Delight, Superfly and Firefly render engines.

There are native Poser and DAZ Studio versions of this product.

How to Install the Poses

Installation in Poser

1. Unzip and copy “Runtime” folder into your Poser Runtime folder.

Installation in DAZ Studio

1. Unzip and copy the contents within your DAZ Studio content folder (default folder is sometimes called “My Library”).

Finding and Using the Poses and Props

This set is found in the “**Animals/Nature’s Wonders/Fauna Library/Reptiles/Snakes of the World**” folder in both Poser and DAZ Studio (in Poser, the Figure library). The Poses are found without the Slithering Expressions sub-folder on the Pose folder and the Props with the Prop Folder.

Paired posing isn’t an exact science and will vary depending on the characters and program you are using. The poses were created using the default base characters. In the case of DAZ Studio G9 figure (which is generic), **only the Base Feminine/Masculine Body dial were used** in addition to the default figure. While no BODY x-y-z translations are used in the poses, Snakes do have BODY scaling commands to ensure the snake aligns with the human figure. This will allow other species of snakes to be used with the figure without too much modification.

It is best to load the **default** figures and their snakes and/or props first, apply all the poses and parenting, and then, add the human figure textures and shapes to the model. Some minor adjustments might be needed depending on the figures additional shaping.

Limits... On or Off? To achieve some poses, such as crossed legs or simply placing an arm under head, it was necessary to go a little pass the set limits of the character joint parameters. If asked about Limits, **Limits Off is the right choice.**

I have tried to include the best practices to get the best results in either DAZ Studio or Poser:

In Daz Studio:

1. Load the default human figure and the snake(s) and/or props.
2. Apply the poses to human figure and the snake(s) and/or props.
3. Parent the snake(s) and/or prop to the human figure as direct on its pose icon.
4. Position the human figure as desired in your scene. If desired, apply human figure textures and shaping to the human model. Some minor adjustments to the snake/prop might be needed depending on the figures additional shaping.

In Poser:

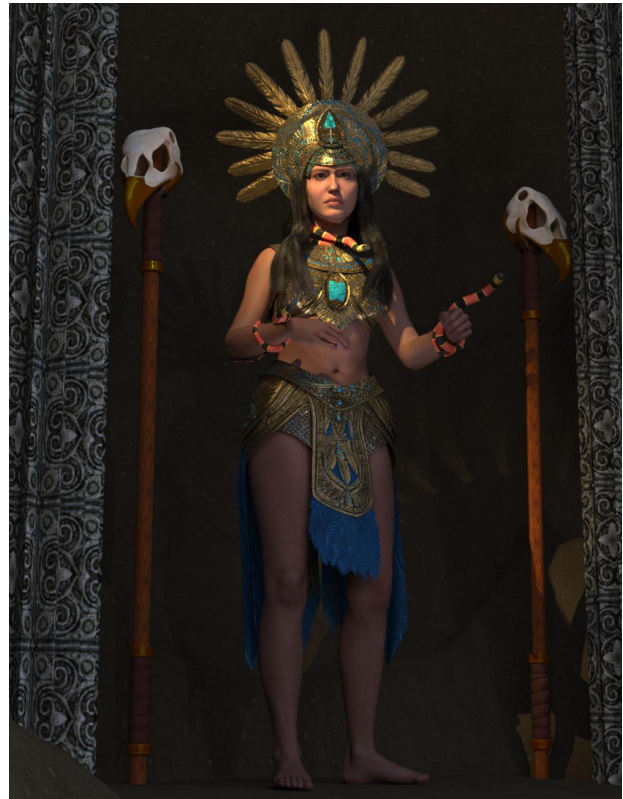
1. Load the default human figure and then snake(s) and/or props. In the case of the Snake Flute, the prop contains “Smart Parenting” and will position it’s self in the left hand.
2. Apply the poses to human figure and the snake(s) and/or props.

3. Parent the snake(s) and/or prop to the human figure as direct on its pose icon.
4. Position the human figure as desired in your scene. If desired, apply human figure textures and shaping to the human model. Some minor adjustments to the snake/prop might be needed depending on the figures additional shaping.

Tricks and Tips

Most of the posed Snakes (except Hopi Snake Dance) have the Head and Fore EZ-pose sections free to do additional posing. For example, in the case of the Mother of the Wendol pose, the coral snakes could be made to create a bite snapping appearance using the S-Bend EZ-Pose in the Fore section and the open/close mouth. With the Hopi Snake Dance it is possible to use the Hind and Tail EZ-Pose controls without affecting the main pose.

These actions could be used for some effective animation.



About Snake Charming

Snake charming is the practice of appearing to hypnotize a snake (often a cobra) by playing and waving around an instrument called a “pungi”. A typical performance may also include handling the snakes or performing other seemingly dangerous acts, as well as other street performance staples, like juggling and sleight of hand.

Ancient Egypt was home to one form of snake charming. It eventually spread throughout South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. The practice was historically the profession of some tribesmen in India well into the 20th century. Many snake charmers live a wandering existence, visiting towns and villages on market days and during festivals. During a performance, snake charmers may take a number of precautions. The charmer typically sits out of biting range and the snake is usually sluggish due to starvation or dehydration and reluctant to attack anyway. More drastic means of protection include removing the reptile's fangs or venom glands, drugging the snake, or even sewing the snake's mouth shut. The most popular species are those native to the snake charmer's home region, typically various kinds of cobras, though vipers and other types are also used.

Snake charming declined rapidly after the government banned the practice in 1972. The “Wildlife Protection Act” was passed in India in 1972 banning ownership of snakes. In retaliation, snake charmers organized, protesting the loss of their only means of livelihood, and the government has made some overtures to them. Despite that, snake charming is almost extinct in India.

Snake-charmer performances still happen in other Asian nations such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia. The tradition is also practiced in North African countries of Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia.

About the Hopi Snake Dance

The Hopi sacred ceremony of the Snake Dance is a prayer for rain, the snakes being used as messengers to the gods having power over the rain clouds. It continues for nine days. The public performance (in which live snakes are handled) occurs on the ninth or last day. This ceremony takes place about the middle of August.

Because the ceremony was becoming too popular with tourists—President Theodore Roosevelt among them—the Hopi closed it to non-Indians in the 1950s.

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