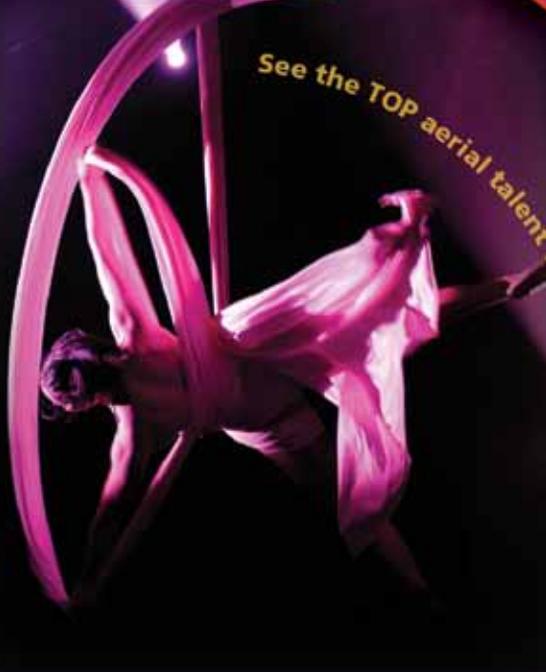


aerial
acrobatic
arts festival
Denver, CO

See the TOP aerial talent from across North America

A photograph of an aerial acrobat performing with a long, flowing pink ribbon. The acrobat is suspended in the air, holding the ribbon with both hands, and is in a dynamic, contorted pose. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the acrobat and the ribbon. The photo is framed by a stylized, colorful border that resembles a circus tent or a stage entrance.

Based on a long tradition of Circus Festivals

May 13th - 14th

The **Oriental Theater**
4335 W. 44th Ave. Denver, CO 80201

PROGRAM GUIDE

www.aerialartsfestdenver.com

2011



THE SHOW

The Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival - Denver was created using standards established in the Circus Festival tradition and also with a circus spirit of innovation and discovery.

The festival is a First-of-its-kind event, showcasing leading semi-professional aerialists in North America.

A semi-professional aerialist is an artist who is formally trained or self-taught, who has performed for one time event or on a semi-regular basis. The Festival welcomes new artists who have a unique style and desire to work in the field of circus arts and entertainment.

In order to reach the show competition, aerialists submitted videos for review by a screening panel. Many talented artists applied from across the United States and Canada.

The criteria for judging was based on standards of Aerial Festivals from around the world. One Finalist per discipline will be selected by the judges from the Friday night show to perform for the final show Saturday night.

The Festival celebrates undiscovered talent and also welcomes audience participation in selecting the Best of Festival. The Judges will select the Best Technical, Best Artistic and Best Over-all Performance.

The Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival will continue to evolve and foster community. It is a platform for aerialists to experience the joy of performing, the excitement of competition, and the inspiration of seeing what is possible.

Welcome to the First Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival-Denver

Enjoy the Show!

CIRCUS LINGO

Ace in the Hole: A man hired by the show owner or manager as a replacement for the boss of the show.

Ace note: a dollar Bill

Bag Man: ticket seller or short change man who made change from a bag.

Bale Ring: Heavy metal ring which encircled the center pole of the tent. Canvas would be laced to it, and aerial rigging would be pulled up by men, horses, or elephants.

Barker: a dog, not the person on a circus who announced.

Biblebacks: Sections of folding planks, 12 feet long on which the grandstand chairs are set.

Blanket Game: a gambling game played on a blanket outside show cars or on show grounds for show folks only.

Blues: the unreserved seats at each end of the big top. Referred to this way because they were almost always painted blue.

Bug: a flashlight carried by a night watchman. To carry the Bug was to work as a night watchman with a flashlight.

Car knocker: a railroad employee who repairs railroad cars.

Double: a \$20 also called a double saw

Doniker: a toilet

Fin: \$5

First of May: a first season trouper, or a newcomer to show business.

Fixer: the legal adjuster on a show also called the patch.

Flag or Flag's up: The Flag on the cookhouse tent indicating that food was ready.

Floss: Cotton Candy

Frame a show: build a new show

Funny Ropes: extra ropes to keep up the tent in a wind-storm. Each circus boss had their own system.

Take the Gaff: Take the hard knocks in life.

Gazoony: a young immature working man

Half a slug: 50 cents

Half a C: \$50

Jack Pots: A circus trouper's stories of his past escapades, often exaggerated.

Jitney: 5 cents

Mechanic: a safety belt for use in aerial acts or with acrobatics on horses.

Mud Show: a circus traveling by horse drawn wagons between show dates.

Sawbuck or Sawsy: \$10

Short Cake: money made by short-changing

Cherry Pie: extra pay for overtime work.

Shooting Quarter Poles: inserting the tent quarter poles into holes in the canvas and sliding them into position to lift the peaks of the tent higher.

Humbug: something fake that is packaged and advertised so cleverly that people think it is real.

Ballyhoo: the free show given outside the sideshow tent for a few minutes, usually had sword swallows or belly dancers.

Geek: a performer who worked with snakes or frogs like English Jack

Trouper: someone who had spent a season with the circus.

THE PERFORMERS



AfterShock - Miriam Telles and Erin Shredder

Miriam is a third generation native San Franciscan who grew up as a competitive gymnast. Her circus life began with flying trapeze over ten years ago and since then she has trained on static trapeze, doubles trapeze, single point and swinging trapeze. In 2007, she performed with San Francisco's Vau de Vire Society. When she is not performing, she is on staff at the San Francisco Circus Center where she teaches static trapeze. She also works as a freelance documentary video editor, but she is never happier than when she is flying through the air or hanging off of her beloved trapeze partner in crime, Shredder.



Erin is a California native who grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains between the giant redwoods and the beautiful waves of the Santa Cruz coastline. In 2004, she discovered hoop dancing and shortly thereafter circus arts became her new lifestyle. When she's not on the trapeze, she can be seen spinning on the aerial lyra, deftly manipulating any number of hula hoops, sometimes on fire. She is a core member of the Vau De Vire Society. Erin Shredder finds inspiration through all whom she meets. She recognizes that each being is unique and has the ability to shine brightly. She feels incredibly lucky to have Miriam as her partner. Together, they are AfterShock!

Shredder and Miriam found one another in 2007, at the Bohemian Carnival in San Francisco, where they were both performing solo acts. An instant spark of collaborative interest ignited the fire that fuses them together. While each are holding the other's life in their hands, the two wild spirits remain connected like islands in the stream as their exciting trapeze adventures continue.



Eka Boo Button

Eka.Boo.Button is a playful spirit who delights in the creative and bizarre and has been enraptured with aerial arts since 2006. Eka can often be found enchanting an audience with her peculiarly embodied characters, quirky sense of style and kinetic dynamism. Whether perched atop peg stilts or suspended in silk, rope, or hoop, she is sure to deliver an ecstatic passion that is purely phantasmagorical. Eka.boo.button has performed with Zirk Ubu Visionary Circus Collective, Dragon Knights Stilt Theatre, Lunacy Aerial Dance, and Circus Cruz. She currently resides in Oakland, California where she trains, creates, and pursues a Bachelor of Fine Arts in fashion design.



Allie Cooper

Allie has been training rope for three years in Santa Cruz, California. Supplemented by a study of Axis Syllabus, she utilizes momentum and natural pathways and embraces functionality. Allie has performed with Lunacy Productions, the Invisible Circus, at Burning Man, and in Habitat, which previewed in April at the University of California Davis Edge Festival. She continues to be inspired by the constant innovations in the aerial arts worldwide.



Duo Rose Trapeze - Samuel & Sylvia Rose

The passionate, romantic trapeze performance of **Duo Rose** combines unique dynamic elements with aerial contortion. Samuel and Sylvia have worked together for 3 years to develop their act, combining their backgrounds in aerial arts, gymnastics and contortion.

They developed their act independently without primary instruction from a circus school or having a dedicated trainer. They have performed for private events, festivals, and corporate functions as well as larger productions, including the Swiss Christmas Show in Zurich, Switzerland, the Zoppe Family Circus, the Seattle Moisture Festival 2010 & 2011, the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, Circus Mojo and Dreamcast Entertainment's production "Taganai." Beginning in 2010 they have competed internationally.

In February 2010 they competed in the 3rd International Circus Festival of Albacete, Spain where they were invited to perform in the awards gala and received the prestigious Critics' Choice Award. In August 2010 they competed in the 9th International Circus Festival, CIRCUBA in Havana Cuba where they earned the Bronze medal. In March 2011 they competed in the 4th International Circus Festival of Bayeux, France earning the Bronze Medal.



Tom Hill

With a diverse background in visual and performing arts, **Tom** incorporates it all into his sideshow, escapes, and circus routines. Tom has performed with various circus groups and theater companies throughout the Midwest and East coast. Tom received his BA in Art, Communication, and Theater from Monmouth College. Tom is currently producing a show titled: The Carnival of Curiosity & Chaos to premier in June 2011.



Simone Lazar

Simone's career as a performer began at the age of seven, when she begged her parents to sign her up for classes in circus arts and ballet. She spent the next eight years splitting her time outside of school between these disciplines, until she decided to stop dancing and focus more on her circus training. In the following few years, she appeared in various productions, including Hephaestus: A Greek Mythology Circus Tale which premiered at Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago. After graduating from high school, she joined the Professional Aerial Training Program at the San Francisco Circus Center,

where she soon began studying aerial hoop under the instruction of Elena Panova. Simone is currently completing her third and final year in the program, after which she plans on mesmerizing audiences around the world with the beautiful act she has created.

THE PERFORMERS



Kennedy Kabasares

Kennedy grew up in San Francisco and now lives in Los Angeles, where he teaches aerial classes at Kinetic Theory Circus Arts. He is honored and happy to be performing and meeting other fellow artists at the first Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival.



Jill Katzenberger

Jill's aerial career began 4 years ago, while watching aerialists perform alongside the band Devotchka. She registered the next day for classes through Aircat Aerial Arts in Boulder, Colorado with the goal of learning a few things, being able to say that she tried something new, and at best - overcoming a wicked fear of heights. Little did she know that aerial acrobatics would not only light a spark inside of her as a performer, but would fill a huge void left by the conclusion of her career as a college athlete. Never had something challenged her as much as aerial acrobatics, physically, intellectually, and emotionally.

Her natural vigor and ability to explore and discover new movements and sequences in the fabric are her greatest strengths as an aerialist. For Jill, aerial acrobatics evolved from a casual hobby to her passion. She takes every opportunity to perform at events in Colorado and brings her natural enthusiasm for aerial to teaching and performing on a regular basis with Aerial Fabric Acrobatics. Jill is the only artist from Colorado and looks forward to sharing her passion for performing at the Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival.



Sophia Phillips

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, California, **Sophia Phillips** had her first taste of Aerial Arts seven years ago at the tender age of 8, climbing the aerial fabrics at a local circus camp. She began studying formally in 2006 with Ninette Paloma of La Petite Chouette Aerial Dance Studio in Santa Barbara and has since expanded her training to include Lyra, Trapeze, Corde Lisse, and tight wire. Now 15, she's looking to fly even higher, destined to make the world of Aerial Dance a life-long career.



Jennifer Roy

Jennifer is a 20 year old aerial artist from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She has an extensive background in artistic gymnastics. When she left that sport she discovered the world of circus arts. As a member of Momentum Aerial and Acrobatic Troupe she has had the opportunity to represent Canada in the 2007 World Gymnaestrada in Austria. Jennifer will be returning to Europe this summer to represent Canada once again. Jennifer has performed throughout her city and province displaying her skills in fabric, hoop, trapeze, and straps. In addition to aerial acrobatics she is a student at the University of Manitoba and teaches fabric, hoop, and trapeze classes to all ages.



Ariel Schmidtke

Ariel grew up on one of the numerous islands in the Pacific Northwest. She spent her early years tumbling and dancing and later decided to use those skills in the circus. For the past three years Ariel has been working with the Bellingham Circus Guild, a small circus collective based out of Bellingham, Washington. She briefly lived in Paris to train at the Academie Fratellini, but returned to the northwest to begin writing her first full-length circus show. One day she would like to start her own non-profit business so she can travel around the world putting on shows and workshops.



Kaelyn Schmitt

Kaelyn grew up in Victoria, British Columbia. She began her gymnastics training at age 5 and began competing at age 10 at the National Open level. She graduated from The National Circus School in Montreal with a diploma in Circus Arts in June 2010. She is experienced as a coach and performer in aerial silks, duo trapeze, floor acrobatics and dance. She brings a wealth of experience working with different directors and coaches.

Kaelyn has performed in numerous pieces including *Il Fait Dimanche* directed by Shana Carroll (co-founder of Les 7 Doigts de la Main), *En Plein Corps* directed by Estelle Clareton (internationally renowned choreographer), as well as a show for *Bal des Neiges* directed by Sébatien Soldevila (co-founder of Les 7 Doigts de la Main). She has performed in several different countries including France, Argentina, Canada and the US.



Margaux Stevenson

Margaux began her training in ballet at the age of four in the Midwestern town of Portsmouth, Ohio. At twelve, she found the Cirque d' Art Theatre where she started her basic circus skills. She continued her kinesthetic training through summer intensives with Pilobolus and the Radio City Rockettes. After being accepted into Elena Panova's Professional Aerial Program in San Francisco, CA she designed her own tilting hoop. Under the instruction of Tara Quinn and Chloe Axlerod she has worked to create a one of a kind gyroscopic act.

Types of trapeze acts:

- Low casting trapeze, over the ground
- High-flying trapeze over a net
- Fixed trapeze and flying trapeze

THE PERFORMERS



Rachel Stewart

Rachel is in love with the circus. She found her way to circus through the arts of fire dancing and street theater in Boston, Massachusetts. She performed in cabarets, theatrical shows, and on the street, picking up valuable on-the-fly lessons about performance and audience engagement. Her newly discovered passion led her to pursue aerial training professionally at the New England Center for Circus Arts, through their 9-month Professional-Track Training Program. She underwent intensive training in every form of aerial apparatus

available at the school, with a focus on aerial hoop and corde lisse. She currently works as a teacher and performer in Boston, with Esh Aerial Arts. She loves spreading the joy of flight to her students, the awe of acrobatics to her audiences, and is looking forward to opportunities to do both around the world!



Shayna Swanson

Shayna has been creating and performing aerial works that have been described by the Chicago Reader as "truly heart-felt and creative" for over 12 years. After studying dance and sociology at university she decided her true place was in the air. As a former competitive gymnast and diver, her work naturally fused difficulty, strength and intricacy with thoughtfulness and surprise. In 2005, Shayna formed "Aloft" and, with a CAAP grant from the City of Chicago, produced the critically acclaimed full-length show "Rolling Blackouts". In 2006 her choreography was selected into the repertory

of Thodos Dance Chicago and featured in the Best of Dance Chicago Showcase. Also that year the Chicago Reader named her a "Mover and Shaker" of the Chicago dance scene. Her work was also presented at the International Circus Performer's Gathering in Brattleboro, Vermont, and at many Chicago dance festivals. Shayna's work has been seen at the Pegasus Variete in Germany, the Kim Tom Clown Festival in Shanghai, Olympic festivities in Hong Kong, Vivendi Cabaret in the Cayman Islands, resorts in the Caribbean and with shows like Cirque Voila, The Chicago Lyric Opera, Cirque de la Mer, The Coor's Light/Maxim Model Search Tour, New Vision Cirque, The Big Aerial Show, The Midnight Circus and Circus Smirkus. Shayna is honored to have been chosen to participate in Circuba 2011, in Havana, Cuba.



Jacqueline Zalewski

Jackie currently calls Philadelphia her home and performs in that neck of the woods. She is also a proud member of the staff of The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts. She loves to spend every waking moment either in the air or on a tight wire! Along with circus, she has performed as a dancer in everything from national tours of musicals to concert dance.

WHAT ARE FUNAMULISTS?

Wire Walkers who have entertained since ancient Greece. It is not unusual for wire walkers to be afraid of heights.



Emily Zuckerman

Emily has been swinging and hanging upside down for as long as she can remember. She grew up in the bustling downtown of New York City, where her favorite place was always the playground, and favorite structure, the monkey bars. She began her acrobatic training in artistic gymnastics at Chelsea Piers in 1996. She continued to train gymnastics through high school, where she competed on her school team. In 2007, she was inspired by circus while studying at University of California at Berkeley. She began learning aerial arts at San Francisco Circus Center. She graduated from Berkeley in 2009 and has

since been pursuing her passions both as a painter and an aerialist. She has been training intensively as an aerialist with numerous amazing teachers. Through both her painting and circus arts, Emily explores non-verbal methods of communication and conceptualization.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

Mister B:

Comic and juggler who has been performing in the Denver area the past five years at Lannie's Cabaret, Special Olympics, the Colorado Renaissance festival, Keystone resort and the city of Ft. Collins.

Eric Batliner:

Contact Juggler and artist who mesmerizes audiences with his seemingly effortless skills.

PERFORMING

Teachers of circus arts say that they are not looking for beautiful performers instead they want their students to tell a story without words, using only their body. What the performers want to do is reveal their feelings to the audience. Coming up with an act that no one else has done is an obsession of circus performers as well as doing it perfectly for every show. Circus performers have to keep reinventing their acts as they age and their body changes.

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THE JUDGES



Tanya Burka

Tanya is a professional aerialist who has worked across North America and Asia with a diverse range of companies and productions both big and small, including Wonderbolt Circus, Pendulum Aerial Arts, the Underground Circus, Cirque du Soleil, and the 2010 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies.

Tanya is a 2006 graduate of Montreal's renowned National Circus School. She has extensive experience as an educator in the contemporary circus arts. She has served as an instructor, trainer and artistic counselor for recreational and

semi-professional aerial programs across the US. Some of her students have been accepted to programs like Montreal's National Circus School, or gone on to careers as professional aerialists.



Tracy Trotter-Kentnor

Tracy currently owns and directs ACADEMY OF DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS, teaching dance and workshops in static trapeze. She was a Collegiate Gymnast and a Nationally ranked springboard diver. She performed for 18 years with the Wenatchee Youth Circus and has performed professionally on Static Trapeze, Webs, Aerial Hoops. Tracy toured as a professional dancer for seven years. She has traveled and performed in Japan, Bahamas, West Indies, and various locations in the U.S.



Marshall Garfield

Based in Montreal, Canada, Marshall is an independent Artistic & Creative Movement Director. His company Lab in Motion is dedicated to enhancing and designing the use of performance physicality in traditional, inter-disciplinary and new media productions and platforms. Marshall actively worked as consultant to the Festival. Between 1997 and 2006, Marshall worked with the Cirque du Soleil as assistant head acrobatic coach, project manager and acrobatic and performance designer.

THE TECHNICIAN

Patrick Bohan

Patrick started learning trapeze in the late 1970s at the YMCA in Denver and went on to join Frequent Flyers as an aerialist and rigger from the late 1980s through the 1990s. He has done theater and arena rigging professionally since the late 1990s.

What are Sequins named after?
The Italian coin called a zecchino.

THE TEAM

Special Thanks:

Patrick Bohan - Technical Team Installation Leader
Scott Oliver - Head Rigger
Jeff Rusnak
Scott Strohmeier
Barca Chase
Larry Flint Structural Engineer
Marshal Garfield
Keven Geraghty
Scott LaBarbera
Host Families

Supporters:

Dardano School of Gymnastics
Susan & John Stacy
The Comfort Café
Acrobatech

Volunteers:

Krissy Adducci
Megan Stern
Michael Grano
Devin Williams
Guy Mason
Grace Ramsey
Jennifer Miklosi
Steve Davis
Una Paradox
Bernadette Pace
Tony Carpenter
Ben Coleman
Ebeth Feldman
Tanya Burka
Gwin Coleman
Aaron Merriam

Sponsors:

Aerial Fabric Acrobatics
Foothills Structural Engineering
Stagewright - Scott Oliver
Monaghan Communications
SharpCo Designs
Fantastic Hosts
ENDPOINT
Layne Consultants International
Pharos Designs
Light Plumes Photography
EAS
The Oriental Theater
Lab in Motion

Marketing and Media:

Elisabeth Monaghan
Lawrence Phipps
Casey Stongle

Additional support from:

Jerusha Horlick
Katrina Pratt
Gayla Tracey
Tatanya Hamermesh
Mona Hamermesh
Shannon Kolman
Laura Lee Coleman
Gabrielle Marshall

Festival General Manager: Jessica Johnson

Festival Coordination: Patti Miller

Artist Lodging Coordinator: Rob Layne

Festival Producer: Lynn Coleman

Show Director: Lynn Coleman & Brian Hassler

Videographer: David Mitchell

Music: Lawrence Phipps & Casey Stongle

Head Rigger: Scott Oliver

Stage Manager: Brian Hassler

Backstage Manager: Adrienne Metzigg

Security: Burning Man & Apogaea Rangers

Poster and Program Design: Gwin Coleman

Photographer: Scott Strohmeier

Friday VJ: Catherine Wiley

Saturday VJ: Scot Darr

Lights: James Martinez

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THE PRODUCER



Lynn Coleman is an entrepreneur with a zeal for connecting people in projects as disparate as the Board of Education and Flying Trapeze. She grew up in a performing family. She began performing at age three doing a hand-balancing act with her father. When growing up, her family toured Europe performing with Holiday on Ice for three years. In 1999, she founded a trapeze and aerial acrobatic school, Thin Air Trapeze, Inc. with her father and other trapeze enthusiasts. In 2002 she formed Aerial Fabric Acrobatics

a performance company that also offers aerial classes and sells aerial equipment.

Lynn's association with the Burning Man community as well as being a judge for an aerial competition in Hong Kong led to the creation of the Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival. The goal was to create an event that would foster a stronger network between aerialists and offer a platform for semi-professional aerialists to perform, compete and be inspired.



OTHER FUN FACTS

According to historian A.H. Saxon, Barnum's philosophy was that "there's a customer born every minute"

First Circus in Denver:

Dan Castello's Circus & Meagerie performed June 5, 1869 Reported in the Rocky Mountain News.

Start of the modern circus:

1768 by Englishman, Philip Astley First Circus in the US: in 1793 when John Bill Ricketts another Englishman's troupe performed in Philadelphia for President Washington.

Why American Circus are traveling not stationary?

During the early 1800's in America, small towns did not have enough population to build permanent buildings for circus shows. Circuses traveled by wagons. In 1825 circus tents were used in North America.

In 1926, the Moscow Circus School opened the first Circus School in the world.

The song, "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze" was written about Jules Leotard in 1868. He is said to have invented the trapeze in the 1850's. The Leotard is named after him. In Toulouse, Leotard's father had a gym and a swimming pool. Leotard was an exceptional acrobat. He devised the first trapeze over the pool. He performed the trapeze in London in 1859, and in one show linked 5 trapezes in a row and did a single Somersault between each one.

Why the word circus?

It means "circle" in Latin and was a place for riding horses in a circle. All circus rings are 42' established by the Frenchman Antonio Fanconi in the 1700's. Roman festivals were held in roofless buildings called circuses that could hold as many as 250,000 people.

In China the circus tradition is 4,000 years old. Clowns were active in the Imperial Chinese court. Acrobatic skills, hand-balancing, and contortion are a tradition of Asian circuses.

"The Circus lives by split seconds." - Alfredo Condon, Trapeze Artist 1930

"A child, in studying music gains a knowledge of time from a metronome...but there is nothing for the performer save a finely developed sixth sense, which can never be explained nor passed on. You simply learn to let go, and until that finesse is developed, the most agile, most muscularly active person in the world is a failure as a performer."



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aerial fabric
acrobatics

Stagewright

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