

2024 SAN FRANCISCO AERIAL ARTS FESTIVAL  
IS CO-PRODUCED BY ZACCHO DANCE THEATRE  
AND FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

SAN FRANCISCO  
**AERIAL ARTS  
FESTIVAL**  
SIXTH BIENNIAL



**AUG 16  
> AUG 18  
2024**



FORT  
MASON  
CENTER  
FOR ARTS  
& CULTURE

**ZACCHO**  
DANCE THEATRE

# SAN FRANCISCO AERIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

SIXTH BIENNIAL

## COWELL THEATER SHOWCASE

**Friday, August 16th & Saturday, August 17th 8:00 PM**

**Featuring:** Alice Sheppard / Kinetic Light, Ross Travis, Jason Span, Aeriosa Dance Society, Cirque Vida / Xochtil Sosa, Corporeal Imago, and Zaccho Dance Theatre featuring Veronica Blair

*Accessibility Services available for both Cowell Theater Showcase performances: ASL Interpreters and Live Audio Description with 7pm pre-show Haptic Access Tour*

*Post-Show Artist Talk Back: Saturday, August 17th.*

## COWELL THEATER YOUTH MATINEE

**Saturday, August 17th 1:00 PM**

**Featuring:** Zaccho Youth Company, Circus Spire Youth Troupe from Kinetic Arts Center, San Francisco Youth Circus, Ashland Aerial Arts, Prince Dance Institute & Company, and Sentient Arts

## GATEWAY PAVILION SITE WORKS

**Saturday, August 17th & Sunday, August 18th 3:00 PM**

**Featuring:** Flyaway Productions, Megan Lowe & Roel Seeber, dawsondancesf / Gregory Dawson

*Accessibility Services available for the Saturday August 17th Site Works performance : ASL Interpreters and Live Audio Description with 2pm pre-show Haptic Access Tour*

*Post-Show Artist Talk Back: Saturday, August 17th*

## GATEWAY PAVILION GALLERY SHOWCASE

**Sunday, August 18th 7:00 PM**

**Featuring:** Joey the Tiger & Os Roxas, Shannon Gray, Sam Wilder, Thai Lam, Kelsey na Gealaí, Helen Wicks & Saharla Vetsch, Nina Sawant with David Freitag & Andrew Castle

# SAN FRANCISCO AERIAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL

FREE ADMISSION

## Friday, August 16th

### Screening #1 - PIONEERS

at 5:30 PM

*Vintage Circus Reels*, A selection of aerial shorts from Bloomington and Normal, Illinois

Uncle Junior Project Presents: *SATIN*, Directed by Veronica Blair & Orlando Torres

*Can you see me flying?*, Directed by Fawn Yacker

### Screening #2 - DISTINCTIVE at 6:30 PM

*UNBOXING*, Directed by Danila Bim & Jimmy Slonina

*Wind Song*, Directed by Bryan Gibel & Joanna Haigood

*Chameleon*, Directed by Kat Cooley

*Love, A State of Grace*, Directed by Bryan Gibel & Joanna Haigood

## Saturday, August 17th

### Screening #1 - REFLECTIVE

at 5:00 PM

*Come Home*, Directed by Liliana Urbain, Nick Chang & Sam Miller

*GORGEOUS*, Directed by Cuream Jackson & Veronica Blair

*Stillstand:ing*, Directed by Annika Hakala

*Wind Song*, Directed by Bryan Gibel

Uncle Junior Project Presents: *SATIN*, Directed by Veronica Blair & Orlando Torres

### Screening #2 - VERTICAL DANCE

at 5:45 PM

*Knot Knowing*, Directed by Chandra Krown

*RECORD TWENTY TWENTY*, Directed by Mary Ellen Strom and Joanna Haigood, Concept and Choreography by Wanda Moretti

*Sequoia Spirits*, Directed by David Creech & Cherie Carson

*Chameleon*, Directed by Kat Cooley

*SHIFT* (2015), Directed by Amelia Rudolph & Rachel Lincoln

*LISTEN*, Directed by Rodrigo Rebello, Magalie Lanriot & Roel Q. Seeber

### Screening #3 - THEMATIC 1 at 6:45 PM

*UNBOXING*, Directed by Danila Bim & Jimmy Slonina

*Her Life*, Directed by Andrea Dillon

*Cats. Why do we need them?*, Directed by Liudmila Komrakova

*The Wait Room*, Directed by Austin Forbord & Jo Kreiter

## Sunday, August 18th

### Screening #1 - VERTICAL DANCE

at 5:00 PM

*Knot Knowing*, Directed by Chandra Krown

*RECORD TWENTY TWENTY* Directed by Mary Ellen Strom and Joanna Haigood, Choreography and Design by Wanda Moretti

*Sequoia Spirits*, Directed by David Creech & Cherie Carson

*Chameleon*, Directed by Kat Cooley

*SHIFT* (2015), Directed by Amelia Rudolph & Rachel Lincoln

*LISTEN*, Directed by Rodrigo Rebello, Magalie Lanriot & Roel Q. Seeber

### Screening #2 - THEMATIC 2

at 6:00 PM

*Corps de Ballet*, Directed by Katherine Hutchinson

*We are the disturbing flashes of light from another world breaking into this one*, Directed by Ken Fanning

*The Sentience Project*, Directed by Shannon Gray Collier & Lawrence Martinez

*Detached*, Directed by Elaine McCague

## HUB HOURS

Saturday, August 17th

2:00 - 3:00 PM & 4:30 - 7:00 PM

Sunday, August 18th

2:00 - 3:00 PM & 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Come hang at The Hub! The perfect landing ground between film screenings and performances for festival goers and artists; The Hub is a space for relaxing, conversing, and recharging. Light snacks and beverages will be available for purchase or bring a picnic of your own to enjoy on the beautiful 2nd level landing of the Gateway Pavilion.

**Hub Design** by Noah Landisharde and Matricia Haigood

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we occupy the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous protectors of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. We recognize our duty to honor the Ramaytush Ohlone through thoughtful and informed stewardship of ancestral land, and as uninvited guests, we affirm their sovereign rights as First Peoples and pay our respects to the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Ohlone Community.

# MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 2024 San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival! We are thrilled to have you join us for this celebration of creativity, innovation, and breathtaking skill. Our festival is dedicated to showcasing the incredible talent and artistry found in aerial performance, an art form that transcends traditional boundaries and brings together elements of dance, theater, and circus.

Our mission is to celebrate and nurture both established and emerging talent, creating a space where artistic risk-taking is encouraged and where new ideas can flourish. This festival is more than just a series of performances; it is a community where practitioners of all kinds can come together, exchange ideas, build new audiences, and strengthen the bonds that make this art form so exciting and meaningful.

This year we are thrilled to showcase the work of aerial artists from six different countries on stage and on film and to offer all of us a few days to imagine a world of peaceful adventure. From stunning solo acts to collaborative ensemble pieces, each performance is a testament to the dedication and creativity of the extraordinary artists. We hope that you will be inspired by their work and that you will take part in the conversations and connections that make this festival so special.

Enjoy and thank you for being here and for supporting our community!  
Joanna Haigood

# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival was founded in 2014 by Zaccho Dance Theatre with a mission to create world-class events dedicated to aerial artistry in all shapes & forms. Against the backdrop of the San Francisco Bay, the Festival is now located at the Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture where aerial artists bring stunning and innovative performances to local audiences and tourists alike.

Our Festival is San Francisco's premiere aerial arts event, featuring internationally recognized aerial artists and exciting newcomers breaking into the field. This biennial festival brings together spectacle, daring athleticism, aerial dance, and circus to create a dynamic three-day performance event. For more about the San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival, please visit [www.sfaerialartsfest.org](http://www.sfaerialartsfest.org)

# ABOUT ZACCHO DANCE THEATRE |||||

Founded in 1980, Zaccho Dance Theatre is an innovative force in both the world of dance and our home community of Bayview Hunters Point. Led by Artistic Director, Joanna Haigood, we create and present performance work that investigates dance as it relates to place.

Zaccho Dance Theatre is San Francisco's is a pioneer in both site-specific and aerial dance. The Zaccho Studio, located in Bayview Hunters Point, is a 4,200 sq ft facility utilized for rehearsals, performances, community events, and educational activities for youth and adults. Our work draws inspiration from social histories and racial justice themes and returns it to the community through youth arts education, adult classes, artists in residency programs, and the biennial San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival. Our Youth Performing Arts Program is a collaborative youth arts education program developed to enhance classroom learning, educating both the mind and physical body of our young Bayview Hunters Point neighbors. As a longstanding nonprofit program, we pride ourselves on maintaining our artistic integrity, social consciousness, and community involvement. For more information, please visit [www.zaccho.org](http://www.zaccho.org).

# ABOUT FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE |||||

A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center, FMCAC hosts a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year FMCAC provides more than \$2 million in support to local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative artworks at the historic waterfront campus. With a four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, FMCAC is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional artworks best realized in nontraditional or historical settings.

# ABOUT AERIAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL |||||

For 10 years, the San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival has been a stage for the most innovative and extraordinary artists in the aerial performance community. Now, we're introducing a captivating new dimension — the Aerial Arts Film Festival. With 22 original films by some of the most internationally renowned aerial artists, this festival is dedicated to uniting the thrill of aerial arts with the magic of filmmaking. The year's offering is curated by Bay Area aerial arts luminary Veronica Blair.



# COWELL THEATER SHOWCASE

Friday, August 16th and Saturday, August 17th at 8:00 PM

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Post-Show Artist Talk Back: Saturday, August 17th

## **Zaccho Dance Theatre**

### **“Dance for Yal” (1985)**

Choreography by: Joanna Haigood

Music: Et Poutant

Sung by: Edith Piaf

Composed by: Michel Emer, Pierre Brasseur

Performed by: Veronica Blair

## **Corporeal Imago**

### **“Limb(e)s” (2021, remount 2024)**

Choreography by: Gabrielle Martin and Jeremiah Hughes

Music: Line (a), Line (horizon) and Line (b) from album Strings.Lines

Composed by: Nicolas Bernier

Costume Designer: Amy McDougall

Performed by: Eowynn Enquist and Isak Enquist

## **Jason Span**

### **“Ascension” (2023)**

Choreography by: Jason Span

Music: Motion

Composed by: Rone

Costume Designer: Grata Designs

## **Alice Sheppard**

### **“And Dawn Rises Slowly” (2024)**

Choreography by: Alice Sheppard

Music: Dawn

Composed by: LeahAnn “Lafemmebear” Mitchell

Additional Vocal/Arrangement: Innocente Popocatépetl Guizar

Rigging: Jeromy Brett, John Sieswierda

## **INTERMISSION**

## **Ross Travis**

### **“Antic on a Pole” (2024)**

Choreography by: Ross Travis and Rachel Strickland

Music: Tricerahops

Composed by: Too Many Zooz

## **Cirque Vida**

### **“El tiempo de flores” (2018, remount 2024)**

Choreography by: Xochitl Sosa and Sam Alvarez

Music: Apertura/ De Usuahia a la Quiaca

Composed by: Gustavo Santaolalla

Performed by: Xochitl Sosa

## **Aeriosa Dance Society**

### **“Salmon Cycle Quartet” (2023, remount 2024)**

Choreography by: Julia Taffe

Music: Animator, The Swimmer, Transition, River

Composed by: Phil France

Costume Designer: Chandra Krown

Rigging Design: Colin Zacharias

Performed by: Meghan Goodman, Cara Siu, Alex Tam, Juan Duarte

# COWELL THEATER SHOWCASE BIOS

## ZACCHO DANCE THEATRE



**JOANNA HAIGOOD**, choreographer, has been Artistic Director of Zaccho Dance Theatre since 1980. Her work has been commissioned by many arts institutions, including *Dancing in the Streets*, *Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival*, *Walker Arts Center*, the *Exploratorium Museum*, the *National Black Arts Festival*, *Festival d'Avignon* as well as *Alonzo King's Lines Ballet* and *Joffrey Ballet of Chicago*. Joanna has also had the privilege to mentor many extraordinary young artists internationally at the *National École des Arts du Cirque* in France, the *Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance* in England, *Spelman College*, the *Institute for Diversity in the Arts* at *Stanford University*, *San Francisco Circus Center* and at *Zaccho Studio*.

Website: [www.zaccho.org](http://www.zaccho.org)  
Instagram: @zacchosf

**VERONICA BLAIR**, performer, has emerged as one of the top Black aerialists in the country, and has taken her high-flying talents all around the world. A Bay Area native, Blair began her career at the age of 14 at the former San Francisco School of Circus Arts, now known as the Circus Center San Francisco. Shortly after making her debut at 17, she was noticed by Cedric Walker, the founder of the Univer-soul Circus. Walker named Blair as a solo trapeze artist, and she was Univer-soul's Resident Aerialist for over five years. Blair has performed in "Afrika! Afrika!," Germany's largest circus event, and also worked for Universal Studios Japan. She still works with the Circus Center, and has put on shows featuring other Black aerialists and circus performers for themed events, such as a tribute to recording artist Prince that took place in 2014. Black circus performers are rarely recognized, and Blair has taken on the task of filming a documentary that puts a new light on those who work in the industry. Blair's *The Uncle Junior Project* came about after the death of little-known Black circus animal trainer of the same name. In an attempt to uphold Junior's legacy and that of the Black circus, Blair has the ambitious aim of bringing those unknown entertainers to the forefront.

## CORPOREAL IMAGO

**GABRIELLE MARTIN** is a choreographer working in contemporary dance and circus. She began performing street circus arts with companies such as the *Public Dreams Society* in 2001, and directing and independently producing multidisciplinary performance projects in 2003. Gabrielle has a BFA in Contemporary Dance from *Concordia University (Montreal, 2009)* and a certificate in *Dramaturgy* from the *Centre national des arts du cirque (Châlons-en-champagne,*





**EOWYNN ENQUIST** (She/Her) is a free-lance artist and multidisciplinary performer. Eowynn's artistic practice includes; contemporary dance, theater, aerial rope, tv, film, and creative writing. Eowynn is thrilled to be currently working with Corporeal Imago as an aerial dance performer in *Limb(e)s*. Eowynn has worked with established dance companies and independent choreographers in Canada such as; Action at a Distance, Anne Plamondon Productions (Montréal, QB), Anya Saugstad, Cristina Bucci, Daria Mikhaylyuk, Heather Myers, Isak Enquist, Kinesis Dance Somatheatro, Mahaila Patterson-O'Brien, Mascall Dance, Nicole Von Arc for Edmonton Opera's production of *Orphee+*, Out Innerspace Dance Theatre, Rachel Meyer, Vision Impure Compagnie, and Wen Wei Dance.

**ISAK ENQUIST** is a movement artist, choreographer, and experimental musician/sound designer living on *Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh, Skwxwú7mesh, and xwməθkwəyəm* nations (Vancouver, BC). Raised in the Kootenays/Ktunaxa of Canada, he began formal training in Shotokan Karate-Do before pursuing post-secondary dance education at Simon Fraser University and Modus Operandi (Vancouver), as well as training intensives with The Ailey School (Italy/New York) and Springboard Danse Montréal. He has performed nationally and internationally with Canadian performing companies such as: Out Innerspace Dance Theatre, Compagnie Vision Impure, Shay Kuebler Radical System Art, Mahaila Patterson-O'Brien, Amber Funk Barton (the response.), Mascall Dance, CAMP, Generous Mess, Anne Plamondon Productions, and Corporeal Imago. Isak is also a choreographer and producer with Enquist X Enquist on various projects. He is honoured to be performing Corporeal Imago's "*Limb(e)s*" this upcoming season.

**CORPOREAL IMAGO** (CI) explores contemporary tragedy through an intersection of aerial acrobatics, contemporary dance and visual theatre. Speaking to the disenchantment of our times, the company's work bridges the apotheosis of circus, and its metaphor for surpassing our human limitations, with the cathartic

2020). From 2009-2011, she presented her choreography at the Vancouver International Dance Festival, Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival, ROMP! A Festival of Independent Dance (Victoria), WAVE RISING SERIES (New York), and more. Gabrielle performed in over 1,400 shows as an aerialist and dancer with Cavalia (2011-2015), and as a principal character and aerial soloist with Cirque du Soleil (2015-2019). Since 2018, Gabrielle has been choreographing and producing under Corporeal Imago.

**JEREMIAH HUGHES** is a dynamic physical performer who places great importance on storytelling in his craft. He trained and competed extensively with the Canadian Dance Company (Toronto) before studying at the Randolph College for the Performing Arts (Toronto). He was a featured soloist on *So You Think You Can Dance* (2007) and *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* (2008), and joined the competitive internship program at the Broadway Dance Center (NYC) in 2008. Jeremiah has performed with artists such as Bruno Mars, Meatloaf, and Taylor Swift, and in large-scale shows such as: PEEPSHOW, JUBILEE!, Britain's Got Talent, Franco Dragone's *LE REVE* and Cirque du Soleil's *Viva ELVIS*. From 2015-2019, he toured as dance captain and the lead male character of *Ralu* in Cirque Du Soleil's *TORUK - The First Flight*. Jeremiah is Co-Artistic Director of Corporeal Imago, as well as a practicing actor working in film and television.



potential of dance. Brought together by their shared background in dance and theatre, choreographers Gabrielle Martin and Jeremiah Hughes co-founded CI while performing as principal characters with Cirque du Soleil's TORUK in 2018. For two artists used to performing circus as entertainment, CI has become a carte blanche to explore the shadow side of our human experience. Since founding the company in 2018, their work has been presented across Canada and internationally, was nominated for a TOTAL THEATRE AWARD in Physical and Visual Theatre (UK, 2019), and won The Dance Centre's Isadora Award for excellence in choreography (Vancouver, 2022).

**Website:** [www.companyci.com](http://www.companyci.com)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/cie\\_ci\\_co](http://www.instagram.com/cie_ci_co)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Cie.Ci.Co](http://www.facebook.com/Cie.Ci.Co)

## JASON SPAN



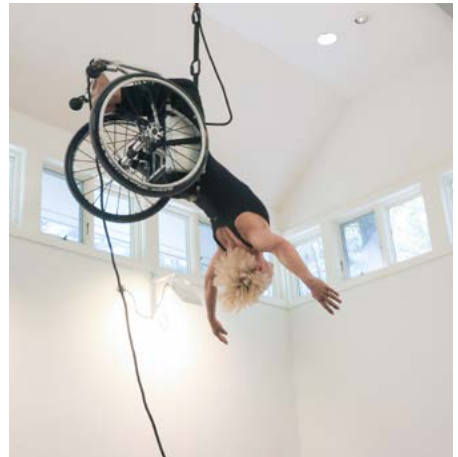
**Jason Span** is a former gymnast of eleven years and a former US Navy Hospital Corpsman based out of San Diego, CA. He was honorably discharged from active duty in the United States Navy after serving for ten years to pursue his dream of becoming an aerial artist. Jason quickly developed his artistry on aerial silks in June 2015 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He relocated back to his home town in Jacksonville, Florida, in October 2015 when

he joined Bittersweet Studios. Always seeking to improve his skills, Jason began to cross train on multiple apparatuses such as aerial hoop, aerial straps and pole (dance). After the rise of his successes, Jason relocated to San Diego, CA from Jacksonville, FL where he now teaches at The Pole Collective and is also an Artist Trainer for Aida Cruises based out of Germany.

**Instagram:** @gymnastjay

**Facebook:** Jason Span

## ALICE SHEPPARD / KINETIC LIGHT



Accepting the outcome of a dare, dancer and choreographer **Alice Sheppard** resigned her tenured professorship to train with Kitty Lunn and Infinity Dance Theater., Alice joined AXIS Dance Company where she became a core company member, toured nationally, and taught in the company's education and outreach programs. Alice is the founder and artistic lead for Kinetic Light, a disability arts company, working at the intersections of disability, dance, design, identity, and technology to create transformative art and affirm the intersectional disability arts movement.

**Website:** @kineticlightdance

**Pictured:** Alice Sheppard / Kinetic Light

**Photo:** Joanna Eldredge Morrissey

## ROSS TRAVIS



**Ross travis** is an award-winning Bouffon, Physical Comedian, and Circus Performer, who has studied with world renowned master pedagogues, including; Dodi Di-Santo, Giovanni Fusetti, Ronlin Foreman, Stephen Buescher, and Master Lu Yi. Ross' lineage of training and experience allows him to create provocative performances combining circus and bouffon to develop extreme characters and tell stories from the fringes, igniting dialogue and change around ignored or taboo social issues. Ross has developed four shows with his company Antic in a Drain; The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth, Bucko: Whaleman!, Tempting Fate and Where Do We Go From Here?

**Social Media:** @anticinadrain

## CIRQUE VIDA

**CIRQUE VIDA** is a contemporary circus company rooted in ensemble circus, acrobatics, and dance; it aims to tell meaningful human stories using the virtuosity of gravity-defying circus. Cirque Vida brings small cast shows to the Austin area, focusing on narrative stories that celebrate life in all its fascinating and intri-

cate manifestations. Cirque Vida hopes to expand the visibility of circus arts through annual full-length theater shows, artistic collaboration, and youth outreach. Under the direction of Mexican American founder Xochitl Sosa, Cirque Vida brings a unique and much-needed LatinX lens to this art form. With a commitment to more diversity in the circus arts, Cirque Vida hopes to aid in social discourse within the genre.

## XOCHITL SOSA

Born in Oakland, CA, Xochitl Sosa specializes in aerial dance, she has been a highlighted artist and coach in the circus community since 2007. She is a graduate of NECCA (New England Center for Circus Arts), where she studied Duo Trapeze and Dance trapeze. Her original work has won such praise as an Isadora Duncan Award, and most recently won 2nd place at Vivafest for her aerial duo. She has worked as an artist, most notably with Cirque du Soleil, Acrobatic Conundrum and San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival. Xochitl is the founder and Director of Cirque Vida, where she brings an innovative approach to circus. Xochitl recognizes circus arts as a limitless vehicle for storytelling. Its intensity and risk call for trust, communication, vulnerability, and presence, she brings this all into her work both as an artist and a director.

**Website:** [www.cirquevida.com](http://www.cirquevida.com)

**Instagram** @cirquevida and

**Instagram:** @circus\_xochitl

**Facebook:** cirquevida



RJ MUNA

# AERIOSA DANCE SOCIETY



**JULIA TAFFE** is Aeriosa's founder and leader. She has choreographed vertical dance for cliffs, buildings, trees and theatres since 1998. She has created commissioned works for The Banff Centre, Taipei City Hall, Cirque du Soleil, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Public Library, Pacific Rim National Park and more. Julia became an ACMG Rock Guide in 1997. She has guided and rigged in Canada, USA and Morocco. She trained at Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers, Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Toronto Dance Theatre. Julia co-founded the Vertical Dance Forum group of choreographers from Canada, France, Italy, England, Wales, Ireland and Croatia. She has toured five continents.

**COLIN ZACHARIAS** is an IFMGA/ACMG Mountain Guide, Mountain Safety Consultant, Technical Director, Rigger, Lecturer, Instructor and Technical Writer. He assesses and develops risk management plans for the ski industry and consults as an expert witness for insurance companies, law firms and professional associations. Colin has been the Aeriosa Safety Director and Rigging Designer since 2008. He is the author of Aeriosa's Health and Safety Manual and he provides safety training for Aeriosa company dancers and riggers. He supports

Aeriosa dance artists and technicians by producing venue-specific safety plans, managing the rigging equipment inventory, designing rigging systems and on-site supervision.

## MEGHAN GOODMAN

Originally from Toronto, Meghan Goodman is an interdisciplinary dance artist and Iyengar yoga instructor. Graduating from Simon Fraser University in 2003 with a BFA in dance and minor in mathematics, Meghan has continued to actively perform, choreograph, and teach in Vancouver for the past 17 years. In addition to her work with Aeriosa, she has performed pieces by choreographers such as Jennifer Clarke, Hanna Kiel, Justine Chambers, Michelle Olson, Rob Kitsos, and Sarah Chase. Meghan has also performed in two productions with the Vancouver Opera. Meghan is currently teaching Iyengar yoga, training with Aeriosa, and raising her two young boys.

**CARA SIU** is a Vancouver-based contemporary dancer and vertical dance specialist. She has trained with Julia Taffe and performed with Aeriosa since 2008. She received her modern dance training at Simon Fraser University and was awarded scholarships to attend Jacob's Pillow Festival and Lewitzky Dance Company. She has created and performed in BC with Link Dance Foundation, Gambling Soles, Raven Spirit Dance, Donna Redlick Dance. She has also worked in Canada and Europe with Carolyn Deby's sirens crossing.

## ALEX TAM

On the unceded traditional Coast Salish territory, Alex Tam is a Vancouver-based dance artist. A natural born thrill seeker, Alex was instantly hooked on vertical dance while gazing out, suspended, from a Grand Fir tree and has been performing and collaborating with Aeriosa since 2015. Alex studied Fine Arts at KPU (Hons.) and professional dance at Arts Umbrella and Modus Operandi. Alex has toured and performed both independently and collectively at international dance festivals in Canada, United States of America, South America, and Taiwan. He has created and performed with Wen Wei Wang, Hong Kong Exile and Corporeal Imago.

**JUAN DUARTE** is a Brazilian Contemporary Ballet dancer based in Canada. After graduating from Bolshoi Ballet School and moving to Vancouver, they/he trained with Lamondance and Arts Umbrella Dance Company, from 2015-2019. Juan has worked with Ballet BC, MoveTheCompany, Traverse City Dance Project, Corporeal Imago, Belle Spiral Dance Projects, Dance//Novella, Action At A Distance Dance and Hélène Simoneau Danse. They/he joined Aeriosa in 2024.

Juan has been a powerful member of the Vancouver queer scene. An ambitious and dedicated performer, Juan is looking forward to what the future offers, and continuing to share their/his beauty and artistry with the world.

## AERIOSA DANCE SOCIETY

Dance on earth, in air. Aeriosa creates dance in unexpected places and in unusual ways. Artistic Director, Julia Taffe merges choreography, environment, and theatre with her professional climbing background and traditional dance training. Julia's dancers are empowered

to fly, yet remain connected to the wild and natural landscape of the seashore, forests, mountains and crags. Her innovative choreography also has roots in the urban world of high-rises, historical buildings, public plazas, theatres, parks and gardens. Taffe founded Aeriosa in 2005, to explore the transformative potential of vertical dance in collaboration with diverse local and international peers. Tracing connections between traditional and contemporary practices, Aeriosa artists contribute to the worldwide impact and relevance of vertical dance.

Aeriosa acknowledges our impacts as non-Indigenous people prospering on the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and Səlilwətaʔ of our urban Vancouver home, and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government Maa-nulth Treaty Lands of our rural Ucluelet home. We are proud ʔaʔuukwiiʔatḥ Tribal Parks Allies.

**Website:** <https://aeriosa.com>

**Instagram:** @aeriosadance

**Facebook:** aeriosadance



# COWELL THEATER YOUTH SHOWCASE

Saturday, August 17th at 1:00 PM

## **Zaccho Youth Company** **"MOVE ON UP" (2024)**

**Directed by:** Joanna Haigood

**Choreography by:** Zaccho Youth Company

**Music by:** Move On Up

**Composed by:** Curtis Mayfield

**Performed by:** Harlem Kelly, Hunter Kelly, Molly Seybert-Kuczek, Trinity Jones

## **Circus Spire Youth Troupe** **from Kinetic Arts Center** **"Ripple Effect" (2024)**

**Choreography by:** Performers Logan Barthmaier, Elia Kowalewski

**Music:** Strangers

**Composed by:** Portishead

**Costume Designer:** Kim Haugan-Baker

**Performed by:** Logan Barthmaier, Elia Kowalewski

## **Ashland Aerial Arts** **"Lepidopterize" (2024)**

**Choreography by:** Sonya Smith with the performers

**Music:** Sequence (Three) and Sequence (Four) and Fragments of Time

**Composed by:** Peter Gregson and Vitamin String Quartet

**Costume Design by:** Sam Schuh

**Text and Narration by:** Linda Kappen, Lepidopterist

**Performed by:** Isabella Baldassar, Rowan Chenoweth, Lux Cooley, Valerie Jacques, Zia Lunoak, Aubrie Muhonen, Finn Parr, Zephyr Ross, Kalila Sayre, Jade Williams

## **San Francisco Youth Circus** **"Cortina" (2024)**

**Choreography by:** Juliana Neves and Mia Fan

**Music:** Cortina

**Composed by:** Nana Vasconcelos

**Costume Designer:** Shelli Frew

**Performed by:** Mia Fan

## **Prince Dance Institute and Company** **"Each new day // A new me" (2024)**

**Directed by:** Angel Prince

**Choreography by:** Sage Nicolson

**Music:** Someone New and Almost

**Composed by:** Hozier

**Assistant teacher:** Angeline Hillman

**Performed by:** Octavian Oceanus Boucher, Kyla Peterson, Harmony Satori-Mace, Anika Schmidt, Maya Sullivan, Ophelia Williams

## **Sentient Arts** **"Home" (2024)**

**Directed by:** Shannon Gray

**Choreography by:** The performers

**Music by:** That Home and Birds

**Composed by:** Patrick Watson and Maggie Koerner

**Performed by:** Nika Ayre, Morgan Olsen, Claudia Slaughter, Zoe Stephens

## **San Francisco Youth Circus** **"Reflections" (2023/24)**

**Act Creation / Choreography by:** Elena Panova

**Music:** Destiny

**Composed by:** Roque Banos & Bratislava Symphony Orchestra

**Costume Designer:** Shelli Frew

**Performed by:** Kaia Luna and Solena Solomon

# YOUTH REVELRY ARTIST BIOS

## ZACCHO YOUTH COMPANY



**Zaccho Youth Company** (ZYC) is Zaccho Dance Theatre's youth aerial dance company for ages 7 through 14. Founded by Artistic Director Joanna Haigood in 2002, ZYC has performed throughout the Bay Area and nationally, including with Circus for the Arts, The Luggage Store Gallery's In the Streets Festival, the Black Choreographers Festival, Global Youth Media and Arts Festival, Sky Dancers Festival, ODC Youth Festival, the Discovery Museum, Montalvo Arts Center, D'AIR Aerial Studios in Atlanta, GA, Project Artaud's SPACE 124, and the Bolinas Community Center. ZYC is part of Zaccho Dance Theatre's award-winning Youth Performing Arts Program hosted at the organization's studio in Bayview Hunters Point.

## CIRCUS SPIRE YOUTH TROUPE FROM KINETIC ARTS CENTER

Kinetic Arts Center's Circus Spire Performance Program (Circus Spire) is a pre-professional circus youth program,



ages 13 – 18yrs, that centers artistry by introducing performers to rigorous training, goal setting and skill acquisition, as well as creation, character development and collaboration.

<https://www.kineticartscenter.com/>  
**Instagram** @KineticArtsCenter

## ASHLAND AERIAL ARTS

**Sonya Smith** is a former monkey bar junkie, competitive hurdler, backpacker,





aerial dancer, and life-long body geek. In the Bay Area, Ashland, Boulder, and around the world she has danced on the ground, on the side of buildings, in theaters, on staircases, and in elevator shafts. She is continually inspired to share her breadth of knowledge gleaned from two decades performing professionally, a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance with an emphasis in Aerial Dance, Pilates and GYROKINESIS certificates, numerous aerial teacher trainings, and unending curiosity about what is possible. In August 2019 she purchased Ashland Aerial Arts and relocated from the Bay Area to keep the youth of Ashland flying.

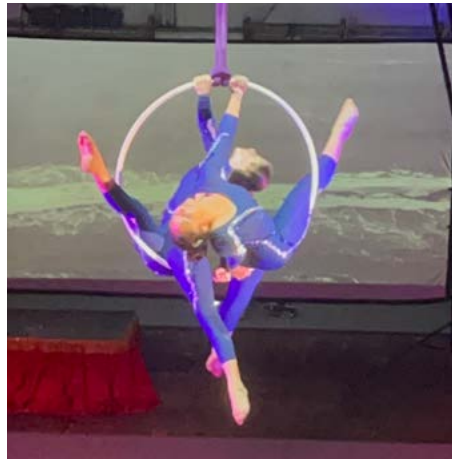
**Linda Kappen** is an avid lepidopterist, who has been studying butterflies of southern Oregon for two decades. As a youth educator in the Applegate, she brought innovative butterfly study opportunities to her students. During the summer, she devotes much of her time to leading butterfly walks and conducting butterfly surveys throughout the state of Oregon.

**Ashland Aerial Arts Performance Company** commit themselves to training, exploring, and creating together as an ensemble. They embrace performing in the studio and in the community as well as sharing their knowledge by assisting with classes and camps throughout the year. This is their second opportunity to share space and inspiration in an ongoing relationship with the Zaccho Youth Company.

**Website:** [www.ashlandaerialarts.org](http://www.ashlandaerialarts.org)  
**Facebook:** [ashlandaerialarts](https://www.facebook.com/ashlandaerialarts)  
**Instagram:** [@ashland\\_aerial\\_arts](https://www.instagram.com/ashland_aerial_arts)

## SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH CIRCUS

**San Francisco Youth Circus** is a circus arts performance program. Its members are ambassadors for Circus Center's values and commitment to excellence. The program highlights youth community members who have mastered their skills to a level ready for a large public audience. The artists have the privilege of growing in a professional performance setting under the mentorship of industry and



community leaders. The program teaches the diligence and the personal and social responsibility required to succeed in any career.

**Website:** [Circuscenter.org](http://Circuscenter.org)  
**San Francisco Youth Circus page:** <http://circuscenter.org/sfyouthcircus>  
**Instagram:** [@CircusCenter](https://www.instagram.com/CircusCenter)

## PRINCE DANCE INSTITUTE AND COMPANY



**Angel Prince** is a director, educator, choreographer, and performer with a MA in Contemporary Dance Styles from The



National University of Art in Buenos Aires and a BA in Dance from Hofstra University. Based on the island of Hawaii for the last 20 years, Ms. Prince founded performing arts school Prince Dance Institute with a vision to provide comprehensive and inclusive arts education programs for students in rural Hawaii. Non-profit Prince Dance Company was founded in 2008 to create original works of art for stage, screen, and site-specific locations, provides educational outreach performances and dance education for underserved students in Hawaii, and produces professional performances for youth. Ms. Prince is a prolific creator and collaborator and has produced over 30 original performances to highlight issues that are relevant to the community around issues as diverse as mental health and environmental concerns to more abstract ideas around human's understanding of time and the end of life.

**Prince Dance Institute's** mission is to teach excellence in the performing arts and provide a place for art appreciation, connection, and education for people on the Big Island of Hawaii.

**Website:** [www.princdance.org](http://www.princdance.org)  
and [www.princdanceinstitute.com](http://www.princdanceinstitute.com)  
**Instagram:** @prince\_dance\_institute  
and @prince\_dancecompany

## ***SENTIENT ARTS***



**Sentient Arts** is an approach, a program, and a philosophy revolving around the power and process of embodiment. Developed by Shannon Gray over her performing and teaching career, Sentient Arts is based out of West Marin where Shannon currently runs youth-focused aerial programs in both Bolinas and Woodacre. While skill and technique are an important part of the curriculum, Sentient Arts is most inspired by the how and why of movement and focuses on creativity as a healing force. Shannon's aerial programs revolve around full-human development and support- giving young people permission to find authentic expression through their bodies, movement, and

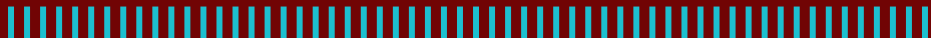


connection to the natural world. With a MA in Depth and East-West Psychology and over 15 years of teaching experience, Shannon understands that the body, mind, and spirit are intertwined in complex and beautiful ways. Sentient Arts reflects this interdependence.



# GATEWAY PAVILION SITE WORKS

Saturday, August 17th and Sunday, August 18th at 3:00 PM



*Accessibility Services available for the Saturday, August 17th Site Works performance:  
ASL Interpreters and Live Audio Description with 2pm pre-show Haptic Access Tour*

*Post-Show Artist Talk Back: Saturday, August 17th*

## **Flyaway Productions**

### **“Jane Can You” (Premiere)**

**Choreography by:** Jo Kreiter, in collaboration with the dancers

**Composed by:** Xoa Asa

**Costumes by:** Jamielyn Duggan

**Additional Music Sources:** Beethoven, Representative Maxine Waters, Representative Cori Bush, Representative Kat Kammack, Paris Paloma, Kiara Bridges vs Representative Josh Hawley, Dr Serina Floyd

**Additional Support:** The Tenderloin Museum, The Cadillac Hotel, and Nina ‘Peaches’ Foster

**Performed by:** Ai Yin Adelski, Laura Elaine Ellis, Jhia Jackson

## **Megan Lowe & Roel Seeber**

### **“From the Clouds to the Earth” (Premiere)**

**Choreography, Performance, and Music by:** Megan Lowe and Roel Seeber

**Rigging Design by:** Dave Freitag

## **dawsondancesf**

### **“Gateway24” (Premiere)\***

**Choreography by:** Gregory Dawson

**Music:** Gateway24

**Composed by:** Gregory Dawson and Macio Payomo

**Costume Designer:** Gregory Dawson

**Rigging Design by:** Dave Freitag

**Performed by:** William Brewton Fowler Jr., Valentin Juarez, Natalya Shoaf, Brook Terry, Alyssa Viray, Veronica Blair

*\*This production by dawsondance/sf is commissioned by Zaccho Dance Theatre with support from the City of San Francisco’s Dream Keeper Initiative in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission*



# GATEWAY PAVILION SITE WORKS BIOS

## FLYAWAY PRODUCTIONS



艾音 “ÀI YĪN” (NICOLE) ADELSKI is a biracial artist of Chinese and European descent. Born in Hong Kong, raised in Shanghai and Taipei, she moved to San Francisco for college where she majored in Dance and Social Justice while minoring in both Philosophy and Chinese Studies. She is currently a freelance dancer, dance teacher, and pilates instructor based in San Francisco. Despite being trained in many different styles of dance, she mainly identifies as a contemporary dancer. She is currently excited to be learning more about vertical dance and heels! Her non-dance related movement history includes: getting her black belt in taekwondo at age 14 and ski instructors license at 19. She has worked with For You Productions, Detour Dance, PUSH Dance, and Flyaway Productions. She hopes to continue to learn and grow as a human and as an artist, to establish herself as a performer, choreographer, and visual artist.

**LAURA ELAINE ELLIS** maintains a non-stop career of performing, choreographing, and producing in the Bay Area. Over her 35 years of performing, she has

worked on projects and collaborated with notables Deborah Vaughan, Robert Henry Johnson (rest in power), Joan Lazarus, Anne Bluethenthal, Robert Moses, Nora Chipaumire, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Kim Epifano, Christy Funsch, and Joanna Haigood. Ellis' first project with Jo Kreiter's Flyaway Productions was in 2014. Ellis has been awarded an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Outstanding Individual Performance and numerous funding awards for her own choreographic and producing projects. She is co-founder and Executive Director of the African & African American Performing Arts Coalition, co-presenters of the Black Choreographers Festival: Here & Now. Ellis is a dance educator for the Theater and Dance departments at the Athenian School and CSU East Bay. She also serves as a board member for Robert Moses' Kin and Oaktown Jazz Workshops.

**JHIA LOUISE JACKSON** (she/they) is a movement-based scholar artist who regularly engages in interdisciplinary projects. She has worked with artists such as 13th Floor Dance Theater, Alexandra Pirici, Joya Powell/Movement of the People Dance Company, RAWdance, Cally Spooner, Kim Epifano/Epiphany Dance Theater, dNaga Dance, and Octavia Rose Projects. As the founder of j.habitus and a current doctoral student in Sociology at UCSF, they create visceral explorations and presentations of topics drawn from their scholastic and community-based work. Visit [jhiajackson.com](http://jhiajackson.com) to learn more about her.

**XOA** is a synaesthetic sound artist, guitarist, and medicinal garden steward based in the Bay Area. They believe in the ability of sound to deeply heal, awaken the imagination and connect diverse stories. Drawing inspiration from a wide range of styles and complex sensory experiences, they create sonically vibrant rhythms for healing and dreaming. Their track “888” was featured in WOW Vol 2, a global compilation of independent women and non-binary producers curated by Australian music artist SADIVA. In collaboration,

they have worked as a composer and sound designer with local dance companies Flyaway Productions and The Embodiment Project.

**JO KREITER** (she/her) is a San Francisco-based choreographer with a background in political science. Through dance she engages physical innovation and the political conflicts we live within. Kreiter creates a sense of spectacle to make a lasting impression with an audience, striving for the right balance of awe, provocation and daring. Recent awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, Rauschenberg Foundation Artist-as-Activist Fellowship, the Rainin Foundation Open Spaces Award, two National Dance Project Creation Grants and two Creative Work Fund awards. In her book, *Moving Sites: Investigating Site-Specific Dance Performances*, author Victoria Hunter cites Kreiter as a leader in the field of site-specific dance.

## FLYAWAY PRODUCTIONS

Founded in 1996, Flyaway Productions makes dances that are off the ground, site specific and politically driven. Flyaway's tools include coalition building, an intersectional feminist lens, and a body-based push against the constraints of gravity. Recent coalition partners include the Museum of African Diaspora, Empowerment Avenue, Essie Justice Group, Local 2, Bend the Arc Jewish Action, the Tenderloin Museum, and UC Law. We have been supported by Guggenheim and Rauschenberg Foundation fellowships, NEFA's National Dance Project, the National Endowment for the Arts, Center for Cultural Innovation, New Music USA, The Gerbode Foundation, MAP, the Creative Work Fund, the Wattis, Fleishhacker and Rainin Foundations, CA Arts Council, SF Grants for the Arts, and the SF Arts Commission and have received seven IZZY awards from the SF dance community. The SF Bay Guardian describes Flyaway as makers of "art at the heart of the democratic ideal."

**Website:** [www.flyawayproductions.com](http://www.flyawayproductions.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/flyawayproductionsdance>

**Instagram:** [flyawayproductions\\_sf](https://www.instagram.com/flyawayproductions_sf)

## MEGAN LOWE & ROEL SEEBER



**MEGAN LOWE** (she/they) is a dance maker/performer/teacher, aerialist, and singer-songwriter of Chinese and Irish descent, making dance art in the SF Bay Area, situated on unceded Ramaytush Ohlone land. With an affinity for dynamic places and partners, her creations through Megan Lowe Dances explore complex identities and experiences by tackling unusual physical situations and inventing compelling solutions, opening up the imagination to what is possible. Megan's recent choreographic works have been seen at ODC, de Young Museum, Legion of Honor Museum, and The Annex, as well as in the United States of Asian America Festival, SF Trolley Dances, CAAMFest, and on KQED Live. She won an Izzie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Performance for "HOME(in)STEAD", a site-specific dance she created with Johnny Huy Nguyen at 500 Capp Street. Megan has performed with Flyaway Productions, Lenora Lee Dance, Dance Brigade, Scott Wells & Dancers, Lizz Roman & Dancers, and more. She is a teaching/choreographing artist for Joe Goode Performance Group, Bandaloop, Flyaway, and her alma mater Theater, Dance, & Performance Studies at UC Berkeley, where she currently works as the Program Associate.

**Website:** [www.MeganLoweDances.com](http://www.MeganLoweDances.com)

**Instagram:** [@MLoweDanceKitty](https://www.instagram.com/MLoweDanceKitty)

**ROEL SEEBER** (he/they/any) is an Oakland based artist who graduated cum Laude from Purchase College, State University of New York, and holds an MFA in Dance from the University of Washington. From 2008-2020, Roel was a company member of vertical dance organization BANDALOO, dancing, performing, stage directing, and teaching with them. Roel currently works with BANDALOO in performance projects and as Lead Teacher. As a solo artist, Roel collaborates with other vertical dance artists, including a creative partnership with Magalie Lanriot in Lisbon, Portugal. He has taught workshops for Il Posto, Vuela, Danza Area, Dimegaz, Sparrow Dance, and Gravity & Levity. From 2001 to 2008, Roel danced with The Limón Dance Company. Roel first fell in love with dancing through contact improvisation.

**Instagram:** @roelseeber

## DAWSONDANCESF



**WILLIAM BREWTON FOWLER JR.**, dancer-choreographer from Augusta, Ga., who studied at UNCSA. Being a Born-again follower of Christ, William freelanced in Missouri with Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre, which furthered his journey with his faith. In NYC, he performed with Gallim Dance and Company SBB. In the Bay Area, he choreographed "I'll love

you from here" for Oakland Ballet Company. He also co-choreographed a duet with Frankie Peterson III for the Black Choreographers Festival. He participated in a BAMPFA installation with TinyPistol under the direction of Maurya Kerr. He's worked with SFBATCO for the musical "Sign My Name to Freedom." While there he started his journey into aerial work led by Joanna Haigood and continues under her tutelage at Zaccho Dance Theatre as a company member. He regularly works with Gregory Dawson & dawsondancesf. He's excited to continue learning and immersing himself in the Bay Area dance community.

**VALENTIN JUAREZ** (age: 17, nationality: Argentina) started his dance studies at the young age of 6 in different areas like Ballet, Contemporary, Modern Jazz, Hip Hop. He won 1st prize in the National Dance Competition "Gym On Stage" and special mention for his role dancing Michael Jackson style. An outstanding student at Julio Bocca's dance studio from Argentina, he received the International Certification Instructor in the areas of Tango and Modern Jazz. At the age of 14 he made his debut as a professional dancer performing in a big Tango event organized by the Government of Argentina, as part of the cast of the prestigious dance company "Corporacion Tango." Valentin impressed the audience with his solo of "Ballad for a Fool". In 2022 he did a training program at Millennium Dance Complex of Los Angeles, CA, and studied with Michael Dameski. In 2023 he started the Alonzo King's Lines Ballet Training Program and Pre-Professional Intensive Program.

## NATALYA SHOAF FRANCIS WONG

Based in the Bay active dance educator, choreographer, and performer. She received her formidable dance education from Burbank Dance Biz, Patsy Metzger Dancers, Media City Dance, and Los Angeles High School for the Arts. Natalya holds a BFA in Dance from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA program. Natalya is a dance educator for Oakland School of the Arts and Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. As a performer, she has worked with Flyaway Productions, dazaun.dance,

Hope Mohr Dance, Liv Schaffer, and many more. Natalya is the current artist in residence at the Athenian School under the direction of Laura E. Ellis.

**BROOKE TERRY** is a dance artist, choreographer, instructor, and movement investigator native to St. Louis, Missouri. Pre-professionally they trained rigorously at COCA St. Louis, under the mentorship of Antonio and Kirven Douthit-Boyd. Brooke continued their dance education by graduating in 2022 from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA program, under the direction of Marina Hotchkiss, where they had the opportunity to work with Sidra Bell, Gregory Dawson, Maurya Kerr, Dexandro "D" Montalvo, and more. Brooke became fully immersed in the San Francisco Bay Area dance community in 2022. They have since worked with dawsondancesf, REYES Dance, Xochipilli Dance Company, David Herrera Performance Company, Joe Goode Performance Group, as a movement consultant for DETOUR Dance, UNA Productions, and as faculty with TEENS at LINES. They are grateful to collaborate with dawsondancesf for another season – continuing to communicate their lived experiences as a young Black queer individual, through embodied movement and performance.

**ALYSSA VIRAY** began her training at Westlake School for the Performing Arts. She received her BFA in Dance from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet Program at Dominican University of California. During her time in the LINES BFA Program, she performed works by Gregory Dawson, Dexandro Montalvo, Kara Davis, Liv Schaffer, and Jay Carlon. She furthered her training at different intensives such as Orsolina'28 Nunes/Flock Intensive, BalletX Winter Intensive, and Modus Operandi Summer Intensive. She started dancing with dawsondancesf in 2022. She was part of the world premiere of "The Joy Protocol" in collaboration with Richard Howell and performed in "The Middle Period" for the Tannery Winter Dance Festival and Black Choreographer's Festival.

**VERONICA BLAIR** has emerged as one of the top Black aerialists in the country, and has taken her high-flying talents all around the world. A Bay Area native, Blair began her career at the age of 14 at the former San Francisco School of Circus Arts, now known as the Circus Center San Francisco. Shortly after making her debut at 17, she was noticed by Cedric Walker, the founder of the Universoul Circus. Walker named Blair as a solo trapeze artist, and she was Universoul's Resident Aerialist for over five years. Blair has performed in "Afrika! Afrika!," Germany's largest circus event, and also worked for Universal Studios Japan. She still works with the Circus Center, and has put on shows featuring other Black aerialists and circus performers for themed events, such as a tribute to recording artist Prince that took place in 2014. Black circus performers are rarely recognized, and Blair has taken on the task of filming a documentary that puts a new light on those who work in the industry. Blair's The Uncle Junior Project came about after the death of little-known Black circus animal trainer of the same name. In an attempt to uphold Junior's legacy and that of the Black circus, Blair has the ambitious aim of bringing those unknown entertainers to the forefront.

**GREGORY DAWSON** At its core, Gregory Dawson's creative philosophy is rooted in the notions of cultural and human respect that aims to move beyond social biases and divisions that may otherwise prevent individuals from expressing who they truly are. Working from truths allows us to be open and giving with our works.

**Website:** [www.dawsondancesf.org](http://www.dawsondancesf.org)  
**Instagram:** @dawsondancesf  
**Facebook:** dawson.dancesf

# GATEWAY PAVILION GALLERY SHOWCASE

Sunday, August 18th at 7:00 PM

## **Shannon Gray**

### **“Water Loops” (2024)**

**Choreography by:** Shannon Gray

**Composed by:** Matt Takiff

**Costume Design by:** Shannon Gray

**Performed by:** Shannon Gray and Matt Takiff

## **Kelsey na Gealaí**

### **“Dust to Dust” (2024)**

**Choreography by:** Kelsey na Gealaí

**Music:** Jarðartrá

**Composed by:** Eivør

**Rigging by:** Mikey Greco

## **Thai Lam**

### **“Rebirth” (2023)**

**Choreography by:** Thai Lam

**Music:** Million Eyes & Stranger Things

**Synthwave Remix Composed by:** Loic

Nottet & Salvation

**Costume Designer:** Thai Lam

## **Saharla Vetsch & Helen Wicks**

### **“Baby Lady and The Ham” (2024)**

**Choreography by:** Saharla Vetsch &

Helen Wicks

**Composed by:** Simon Lindsteadt, Jaime Serra dos Santos and “Saro” excerpt by the Westerlies

**Costume Designers:** Saharla Vetsch & Helen Wicks

## **Joey the Tiger & Os Roxas**

### **“Found” (2023)**

**Choreography by:** Joey the Tiger and Os Roxas

**Music:** Found

**Composed by:** Kippy Marks

## **Sam Wilder**

### **“Siren and Sailor” (2023)**

**Choreography by:** Sam Wilder

**Music:** Her & the Sea and The Pilots

Journey

**Composed by:** Clann

## **Nina Sawant with David Freitag &**

### **Andrew Castle**

### **“Belonging” (2024)**

**Choreography by:** Nina Sawant in collaboration with the performers

**Composed by:** Daniel Berkman

**Costume Designer:** Nina Sawant

**Apparatus Design by:** David Freitag and Andrew Castle

**Performed by:** Alexander Class, Ciarra D'Onofrio, Derek DiMartini



# GATEWAY PAVILION GALLERY PROGRAM BIOS

## SHANNON GRAY



From the time she could remember, Shannon Gray's relationship with dreams and the unseen world was profound; as was her relationship with movement, creativity, and the natural world. The merging of these passions led her to discover circus arts 17 years ago. Over the years, Shannon has cultivated her unique and emotionally honest approach to aerial dance and has performed and taught internationally through circus festivals, aerial dance companies, and social circus organizations. Nestled in an ocean-side town north of San Francisco, Shannon is currently developing The Sentience Project - a body of work exploring injury, healing, and the wild. She is a youth mentor, surfer, and animal rights advocate.

## THAI LAM

Thai Lam is a professional aerialist who embodies versatility in his performance. He received professional training at the Circus Center in San Francisco and has



trained extensively with renowned aerial coaches in multiple disciplines. Thai's performances focus on smooth lines, clean technique and powerful movements — all the while giving the audience a taste of that Thai spice

Instagram: @thailam\_aerialist

## KELSEY NA GEALÁÍ



Kelsey na Gealaí is an aerial hoop artist and coach based in Santa Cruz. Originally from Seattle, WA, Kelsey found circus arts in 2006 after ten years of ballet (Cornish College of the Arts) and acrobatic training. She studied static trapeze at SANCA (Seattle, WA) and Zuzi (Tucson, AZ) before landing on aerial hoop. Kelsey began training with Elena Panova at the San Francisco Circus Center in 2018, focusing on aerial hoop, dance trapeze and swinging trapeze. Kelsey began working with Marie-Michelle Faber (Cirque du Soleil) from 2021-2022 on act refinement and creativity. She performs and produces shows locally as Founder and Director for Circus of the Moon.

**Website:** [circusofthemoon.org](http://circusofthemoon.org)

## SAHARLA VETSCH & HELEN WICKS



**Saharla Vetsch** (she/her) is a Somali American multidisciplinary artist rooted in the Bay Area. Saharla earned a degree in Performing Arts and Social Justice with a concentration in dance from the University of San Francisco. She currently works in the worlds of drag nightlife entertainment, aerial dance, and collaborative movement-based performance. She aims to create work that fosters community & connection using physical comedy, high-camp energy, and infec-

tious joy. Saharla strives to be a beacon of self-expression, harnessing the liberating power of dance to ignite the same sense of freedom in others.

In addition to performing in Bay Area Queer nightlife, Saharla was a Radiate fellow with RAWdance and has had the opportunity to perform and collaborate with companies such as Detour, Flyaway Productions, and Zaccho Dance Theatre.

**Helen Wicks** is a San Francisco based choreographer, performing artist, and educator. Helen's training began as a competitive gymnast where she was a member of the National Team 2001-2004. She is Artistic Director of Helen Wicks Works, a company that creates spell-binding aerial and contemporary dance performance for multigenerational audiences. Wicks' choreography has been presented at Triskelion Arts, SAFEhouse Arts, Project Artaud's SPACE 124, Circus Center, SF Aerial Arts Festival, Bay Area Discovery Museum, Herbst Theater, ODC, and more. Helen performed works by Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, and Merce Cunningham while she earned a BA in Dance and Psychology from Bard College. She is influenced by her time with Deborah Hay and Quincy Jones, who bestowed her nickname, Baby Lady. She has performed with Zaccho Dance Theatre, Flyaway Productions, GroundedAerial, and others. She is currently the Arts Specialist at The Nueva School where she runs an integrated visual art, dance, and theater program.

Saharla Vetsch and Helen Wicks are a dynamic duo that, since 2022, use physical expression and articulate movement to connect with diverse and multigenerational audiences. The two use aerial dance as a form to blend their individual styles in drag, physical theater, clowning, contemporary dance, and acrobatics. The collaboration aims to expand the hearts and minds of their audiences through joy, nuance, and spectacle.

**Helen's Website:**  
[www.helenwicks.com](http://www.helenwicks.com)

**Saharla's Website:**  
[www.themajorsdance.com](http://www.themajorsdance.com)  
**Instagram:** @helenwicksworks  
**Instagram:** @the\_major\_s

## JOEY THE TIGER & OS ROXAS



**Joey the Tiger** is a visually stunning aerialist known for his strength and graceful movement. On stage a good part of his life by way of performance groups, he has naturally taken to the skies. He performs on a variety of apparatus, specializing in dance trapeze and aerial straps. He has trained at the San Francisco Circus Center as well as Chez Victors' and L'Academie du Monastere in Montreal. He is a resident artist at Berber in SF, co-directed "Circus Pop Ups" as well as produces and directs the fundraiser "Spectrum". Other performance highlights include: Montreal Complettement Cirque, medalist at De Leon Cirquefest, Circus Bella, Cirquantique, Lunar Circus and Cirque de Boheme. He currently teaches and performs around the San Francisco Bay Area. To watch Joey perform is to be momentarily wrapped in a glittery cloak and shown a glimpse of a secret, stirring world of vibrant beauty. The most human of movement, of feeling, and of strength are raw and open in each of Joey's pieces and tangible in every minute detail of his work. As a stand-alone artist, this performer is a blaze of originality and brings an honesty and vulnerability to the stage that will stir and compel any audience to touch their own depths of courage and love.

**Os Roxas** spent the early half of his childhood on a US military base in the Philip-

pinas playing war games in the jungle. Eventually he would move to San Francisco, spending his days with his face buried in comic books, dreaming of becoming a superhero when he grew up. As an adult, he was introduced to aerial & pole by a dear friend who just happened to be the aerial & pole instructor at the gym he worked in at the time. He took a class. It kicked his butt! He was hooked and hasn't looked back since. Now he is a full time aerial and pole instructor, coaching his students on how to flip and fly into action—turning their own dreams of being a super hero into a reality.

**Website:** [www.joeythetiger.com](http://www.joeythetiger.com)

**Youtube:** Joey the Tiger Reel

**Joey's Instagram:** @joey\_the\_tiger

**Os' Instagram:** @os\_aerialist

## SAM WILDER



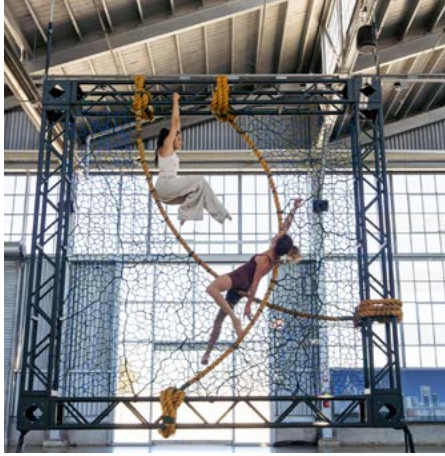
Sam Wilder is a trans nonbinary contemporary circus artist driven by their passion to create work that embodies the power and beauty of queer expression. They specialize in Aerial Fabric and Pole, and believe in performance as means to bring people together and inspire change. Sam spent three years studying at the New England Center for Circus Arts ProTrack Program and graduated in May 2022. They have performed throughout the San Francisco Bay Area in cabaret and ensemble shows including Misfit Cabaret,

Ruckus and Rumpus, and Flux Vertical Theatre's "A Midsummer Night's Fantasy.»

**Website:** [www.samImmalloy.wixsite.com/samwilder](http://www.samImmalloy.wixsite.com/samwilder)

**Instagram:** @sam.circus

## NINA SAWANT WITH DAVID FREITAG & ANDREW CASTLE



Indian American choreographer **Nina Sawant** resides in Oakland having relocated from the South in 2012. She earned a B.A. in Dance Choreography from the University of South Florida, where she concurrently began her career as a dancer at Busch Gardens in 2006. In 2010, Nina began her circus career as an aerialist with the Krymskiy family in Ukraine. Continuing to add new skills to her repertoire, Nina earned an A.A. in Apparel Design from the College of Alameda in 2018. The same year, she founded Dahlias Entertainment with a group of Asian American women, where she prioritizes diverse representation with fair and safe working conditions for artists in event entertainment. In 2022, Nina joined Zaccho Dance Theatre's production of "Love, A State of Grace". In 2023, Nina co-founded Hypothetical Circus, a collaborative, queer circus company in Oakland. Nina continues to pursue concert performance and entertainment and bridges the divide between the two in her work.

**Website:** [www.ninauiu.com](http://www.ninauiu.com)

**Instagram:** @\_ninauiu\_

**David Freitag** is a San Francisco-based rigging designer who has spent the past 20 years flying aerialists, performers, and heavy objects all over the world. He has served as lead rigger for a wide range of site-specific aerial dance and circus productions including Cirque Mechanics touring productions of Birdhouse Factory & Boom Town, The 7 Fingers (Dear San Francisco), Zaccho Dance Theatre (The View From Here, Picture Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival), Capacitor (Okeanos), Flyaway Productions (Meet us Gently with Your Mercy), Printz Dance Project (Hoverspace), Sens Productions (Rapture), and Circo de la Luna. Dave spends his time between aerial dance gigs working as an ETCP certified journeyman member of IATSE Local 16, the house rigger at the SF Masonic Auditorium, Stanford Memorial Auditorium, and (formerly) the Curran Theatre.

**Instagram:** @freitag415

**Andrew Castle** is an artist and professional rigger. He has developed his style of Treenets over many years influenced by his experience living in Yosemite National Park. Andrew was inspired by walking slacklines, rock climbing as well as practicing the craft of wilderness travel with horses, mules and on foot. His work as a theatrical rigger has also led him to develop a unique design capacity for practicing the singular art form of Treenets.

**Website:** <https://treenet.studio/>

**Instagram:** @treenet.studio

## CIARRA D'ONOFRIO

Ciarra D'Onofrio (they/them) is a queer dancer, aerialist, and educator with a passion for using dance as a means of storytelling, social analysis, and community building. They specialize in vertical dance, dance trapeze, and contemporary dance. They have performed in redwood forests, cathedrals, and on trampoline walls.

They are a company member of Zaccho

Dance Theater, and have also recently danced with Epiphany Dance Theater, Olallie Lackler, and Helen Wicks Works. They studied dance and choreography at Lewis & Clark College where they received the Distinction in Dance Choreography Award. They then expanded their training in the circus arts as a member of the Circus Project's Training and Performance Company. They are a head of the aerial department at Camp Winnarainbow and run their own aerial dance program here in the Bay Area. Their current choreographic work explores grief, the co-creation of queer identity, and how gender lives in the body and in physical space. Recently their work has been presented in the San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival, the Tenderloin Arts Festival, and the CounterPulse Festival. They recently were a member of Bandaloop's Training Group and a Shawl Anderson Dance Center Artist in Residency. They are currently an Artist in Residency at Zaccho Dance Theatre where they are developing a vertical dance project about the dying process and grief.

## ALEXANDER CLASS

Alexander Class hails from Puerto Rico, where their deep-seated passion for the performing arts was ignited during their first visit to a circus with their mum and

Abuela. Their commitment to the performing arts led them to pursue extensive training in theatre and circus at esteemed institutions including the University of Puerto Rico, School for the Performing Arts and Carampa Circus School in Madrid. They have worked for The Phantom Circus (Denver), Frequent Flyers (Boulder), SubCielo (Puerto Rico), Bambolea Producciones and Empresa RGASCAT in Madrid.

In addition to their artistic pursuits, Alexander has worked as wigs, hair, makeup artist for the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

## DEREK DIMARTINI

Derek DiMartini – Creator, Performer, Movement Artist – embraces dance as a medium that can recontextualize how we take up space in the world. Drawn to moments of transformation, he is preoccupied with creating environments where the multiplicity of being can be revealed. As a performer, he effortlessly interweaves moments of full-bodied abandon with delicate tenderness and emotional authenticity. Derek is a founding member of Hypothetical Circus, and has performed with LEIMAY Ensemble (New York), Human Shakes, and Push Up Something Hidden, among others.



Pictured: Pamela Donohoo  
Photo: Austin Forbord



# SAN FRANCISCO AERIAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL



Roel Seeber and Magalie Lanriot in *Listen*

# SF AERIAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, August 16th

## SCREENING #1 – PIONEERS

at 5:30 PM

### **Vintage Circus Reels**

5:13

United States

Illinois State University

Circus and Allied Arts Collection, Milner Library, Special Collections Archival

A selection of aerial shorts from Bloomington and Normal, Illinois.

### **Uncle Junior Project Presents: SATIN**

14:00

United States

Directed by Veronica Blair & Orlando Torres

Documentary

Uncle Junior Project presents SATIN, a documentary highlighting the unconventional story of how cousins Pa'Mela Hernandez and Denise Aubrey-Bertini became the first African-American aerial act in Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus history.

### **Can you see me flying?**

28:06

United States

Director by Fawn Yacker

Documentary

Documentary highlighting aerial dance pioneer Terry Sendgraff.

## SCREENING #2 – DISTINCTIVE

at 6:30 PM

### **UNBOXING**

5:52

United States

Directed by Danila Bim & Jimmy Slonina

Performance

Unboxing: The only way out is in. A woman finds herself on a surreal journey of self-discovery. Suspended only by her hair, she utilizes poetic and acrobatic movement to delve into Carl Jung's concept of individuation, separating herself from her thoughts, reflecting on the inner walls of her mind, and questioning whether she has the strength to break free from her limitations.

### **Wind Song**

3:00

United States

Directed by Bryan Gibel

Performance by Joanna Haigood

Betty Reid Soskin became a national icon after becoming a national park ranger at the age of 85. Back in the 1960s, she was a remarkable singer/songwriter who wrote and performed autobiographical songs about the isolation and struggles she experienced as the first African-American family to move into Walnut Creek. Choreographer Joanna Haigood and cinematographer Bryan Gibel created this tribute to Betty for her 100th birthday around her stunning meditation on the ocean, the wind and the freedom of flight titled "Wind Song".



## **Chameleon**

6:12

United Kingdom

Directed by Kat Cooley

Performance

"What you see has a great deal to do with where you are looking from."

Chameleon: A vertical dance film by award-winning director, Kat Cooley, and cinematographer, Artuto Bandinelli. Chameleon explores a world of three figures. What is up? What is down? What is real? What is unreal? Which one is the Chameleon? Drawing on influences from anamorphosis and trompe l'oeil, Chameleon will leave you questioning what you saw and what you didn't.

## **Love, A State of Grace**

34:09

United States

Directed by Bryan Gibel

& Joanna Haigood

Performance, Site-Specific

For four days in 2022, Zaccho Dance Theatre transformed the towering ceilings, stained glass windows and cavernous chambers of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral into a multifaceted immersive experience with aerial dancers ascending a 100-ft ladder and soaring on a 70-foot swinging pendulum. Love, A State of Grace is a 30-minute dance film that transports viewers inside the experience through striking close ups, cosmic wide shots and a cinematic moving camera that soars with the dancers to capture the vulnerability, courage and meditative shared experience of choreographer Joanna Haigood's breathtaking exploration of love and our common humanity.

# **SF AERIAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, August 17th**



## ***SCREENING #1 – REFLECTIVE***

**at 5:00 PM**

### **Come Home**

6:00

United States

Directed by Liliana Urbain, Nick Chang & Sam Miller

Performance

Come Home is a song about longing, release, and return featured on Thrown-Out Bones' most recent EP "They Beckoned Me Here". The music video features choreography, aerial and dance performance by Ciarra D'Onofrio, including single point trapeze and site specific dance.

### **GORGEOUS**

4:34

United States

Directed by Cuream Jackson & Veronica Blair

Performance

GORGEOUS is a collaborative short film featuring two strong black men navigating a healthy queer relationship. A story not often shown and explored on screen. Deon and Cuream go through playful, inquisitive, and vulnerable moments that build to a powerfully artistic union.

### **Stillstanding**

4:51

Austria

Directed by Annika Hakala

Performance

Stillstanding is an experimental circus short film presenting insight into the

mind of a circus artist during challenging times. It is a modern circus piece presented by aerial silks technique. The project has been supported by the Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sports.

### **Wind Song**

**3:00**

**United States**

**Directed by Bryan Gibel**

**Performance by Joanna Haigood**

Betty Reid Soskin became a national icon after becoming a national park ranger at the age of 85. Back in the 1960s, she was a remarkable singer/songwriter who wrote and performed autobiographical songs about the isolation and struggles she experienced as the first African-American family to move into Walnut Creek. Choreographer Joanna Haigood and cinematographer Bryan Gibel created this tribute to Betty for her 100th birthday around her stunning meditation on the ocean, the wind and the freedom of flight titled "Wind Song".

### **Uncle Junior Project Presents: SATIN**

**14:00**

**United States**

**Directed by Veronica Blair & Orlando**

**Torres**

**Documentary**

Uncle Junior Project presents SATIN, a documentary highlighting the unconventional story of how cousins Pa'Mela Hernandez and Denise Aubrey-Bertini became the first African-American aerial act in Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus history.

## **SCREENING #2 VERTICAL DANCE**

**at 5:45 PM**

### **Knot Knowing**

**3:10**

**Canada**

**Directed by Chandra Krown**

**Performance**

Knot Knowing intertwines vertical dance with the symbolism of knot tying, delving

into the essence of connection. Against a breathtaking landscape, the film explores the intricate ways we bind ourselves to others and the world, both visibly and invisibly. With evocative movement, the dancers weave together bodies and thoughts, compelling audiences to reflect on the act of forging meaningful bonds.

### **RECORD TWENTY TWENTY**

**3:06**

**United States & Italy**

**Directed by Mary Ellen Strom and Joanna Haigood**

**Concept and choreography by Wanda Moretti**

**Camera: Daniele Zoico**

Dancers include Simona Forlani, Giulia Mazzucato, Francesca D'Agostino, Giorgio Coppone. The idea is a nature that rebels and dominates humans, in particular is the lagoon of Venice, during the lockdown the force of water pushed everything away ... even tourists. Many of our islands are abandoned and even the island of Sant'Andrea where we shot the video is abandoned. Sant'Andrea is a small piece of earth in the Venetian Lagoon in Northern Italy and boasts the Sant'Andrea Fort, a fortress built in the 16th Century to defend Venice. The lagoons are the product of nature, since ancient times. At first they opposed the land, the water, and the tide; then gradually retreating the primitive waters, formed at the upper end of the Adriatic Sea a vast swamp, which sometimes submerged, was partly abandoned by the tide. The highest points were occupied, strengthened by art, and so Venice arose, formed of a complex of one hundred islands, and surrounded by one hundred others.

### **Sequoia Spirits**

**12:05**

**United States**

**Directed by David Creech & Cherie**

**Carson**

**Performance, Site-Specific**

"Sequoia Spirits" is a playful film which peers deep into the heart and soul of a Redwood Grove. Under the great canopy of California's majestic coastal giants, we get a glimpse into the elements that

bring life to the woods - fire, water and earth. On one special day, we witness Fire as she summons her sister's, Earth and Water and a hide and seek adventure begins. Their dance culminates high in the treetops where Nature's grace and beauty are personified before they vanish back into thin air. Dancers include: Kiran Sattelle Haithcox, Chris Spiteri, and Helium Valentine.

### **Chameleon**

**6:12**

**United Kingdom**

**Directed by Kat Cooley**

**Performance**

"What you see has a great deal to do with where you are looking from."

Chameleon: A vertical dance film by award-winning director, Kat Cooley, and cinematographer, Arturo Bandinelli. Chameleon explores a world of three figures. What is up? What is down? What is real? What is unreal? Which one is the Chameleon? Drawing on influences from anamorphosis and trompe l'oeil, Chameleon will leave you questioning what you saw and what you didn't.

### **SHIFT (2015)**

**11:00**

**United States**

**Directed by Amelia Rudolph & Rachel Lincoln**

**Documentary, Performance**

Pioneers of vertical dance BANDALOOP return to their mountain roots. SHIFT is a wilderness performance in one of the Sierra Nevada's most rugged, remote locations in Yosemite high country. Performed and filmed over two weeks during Summer 2015, the dancers and crew traversed nearly 100 miles on foot and danced on the sides of Yosemite's stunning landmarks, including Mount Watkins (elevation 8,500'). Challenging the boundaries of site-specific performance, SHIFT is historically significant within the canon of American dance, transporting the aesthetic of dancing remotely in fragile landscapes back to the urban realm.

### **LISTEN**

**13:52**

**United States**

**Directed by Rodrigo Rebello, Magalie Lanriot, Roel Q. Seeber**  
**Performance**

Listen is a vertical dance piece about the end of a relationship and the complexity of emotions involved in a breakup. Vertical dance is used as a metaphoric aesthetic where the dancer's relationship with gravity generates tension as they navigate the difficulties of dealing with change, the conflict between, the fear of falling and the desire to fly. The poetry of suspended intimacy and physicality is born, expressing the balance between closeness and isolation, the emptiness of the end and the struggle for acceptance. Negotiating this poetic reality, we return to being with the other in their absence through the ghosts of the past and the inability to listen. Listen is a vertical dance performance that explores the sense of vulnerability while negotiating with reality.

## **SCREENING #3 – THEMATIC 1**

**at 6:45 PM**

### **UNBOXING**

**5:52**

**United States**

**Directed by Danila Bim & Jimmy Slonina**  
**Performance**

Unboxing: The only way out is in. A woman finds herself on a surreal journey of self-discovery. Suspended only by her hair, she utilizes poetic and acrobatic movement to delve into Carl Jung's concept of individuation, separating herself from her thoughts, reflecting on the inner walls of her mind, and questioning whether she has the strength to break free from her limitations.

### **Her Life**

**4:43**

**United States**

**Directed by Andrea Dillon**  
**Performance**

This intimate aerial silks film peeks at a woman trapped in the dejection of her own bedroom, playing with how we can make our apparatus a critical character in a storyline.

**Cats. Why do we need them?**

8:38

Russian Federation

Directed by Liudmila Komrakova

Performance

A bankrupt businessman tries to commit suicide while a cat appears on his way.

**The Wait Room**

15:00

United States

Directed by Austin Forbord & Jo Kreiter

Performance, Site-Specific

15 minute dance film centering the experience of women with incarcerated loved ones.

# SF AERIAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL

**Sunday, August 18th**

## **SCREENING #1** **VERTICAL DANCE**

at 5:00 PM

**Knot Knowing**

3:10

Canada

Directed by Chandra Krown

Performance

Knot Knowing intertwines vertical dance with the symbolism of knot tying, delving into the essence of connection. Against a breathtaking landscape, the film explores the intricate ways we bind ourselves to others and the world, both visibly and invisibly. With evocative movement, the dancers weave together bodies and thoughts, compelling audiences to reflect on the act of forging meaningful bonds.

**RECORD TWENTY TWENTY**

3:06

United States & Italy

Directed by Mary Ellen Strom and Joanna Haigood

Concept and choreography by Wanda Moretti

Camera: Daniele Zoico

Dancers include Simona Forlani, Giulia Mazzucato, Francesca D'Agostino, Giorgio Coppone. The idea is a nature that rebels and dominates humans, in particular is the lagoon of Venice, during the lockdown the force of water pushed everything away ... even tourists. Many of our islands are abandoned and even the island of Sant'Andrea where we shot the video is abandoned. Sant'Andrea is a small piece of earth in the Venetian Lagoon in Northern Italy and boasts the Sant'Andrea Fort, a fortress built in the 16th Century to defend Venice. The lagoons are the product of nature, since ancient times. At first they opposed the land, the water, and the tide; then gradually retreating the primitive waters, formed at the upper end of the Adriatic Sea a vast swamp, which sometimes submerged, was partly abandoned by the tide. The highest points were occupied, strengthened by art, and so Venice arose, formed of a complex of one hundred islands, and surrounded by one hundred others.

**Sequoia Spirits**

12:05

United States

Directed by David Creech & Cherie Carson

Performance

Performance, Site-Specific

"Sequoia Spirits" is a playful film which peers deep into the heart and soul of a Redwood Grove. Under the great canopy of California's majestic coastal giants, we get a glimpse into the elements that bring life to the woods - fire, water and earth. On one special day, we witness Fire as she summons her sister's, Earth and Water and a hide and seek adventure begins. Their dance culminates high in the treetops where Nature's grace and beauty are personified before they vanish back into thin air. Dancers include Kiran Sattelle Haithcox, Chris Spiteri, and Helium Valentine.

### **Chameleon**

**6:12**

**United Kingdom**

**Directed by Kat Cooley**

**Performance**

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**Documentary, Performance**

SHIFT is a wilderness performance in one of the Sierra Nevada's most rugged, remote locations in Yosemite high country. Performed and filmed over two weeks during Summer 2015, the dancers and crew traversed nearly 100 miles on foot and danced on the sides of Yosemite's stunning landmarks, including Mount Watkins (elevation 8,500').

### **LISTEN**

**13:52**

**United States**

**Director by Rodrigo Rebello, Magalie**

**Lanriot, Roel Q. Seeber**

**Performance**

Listen is a vertical dance piece about the end of a relationship and the complexity of emotions involved in a breakup. Vertical dance is used as a metaphoric aesthetic where the dancer's relationship with gravity generates tension as they navigate the difficulties of dealing with change, the conflict between, the fear of falling and the desire to fly. The poetry of suspended intimacy and physicality is born, expressing the balance between closeness and isolation, the emptiness of the end and the struggle for acceptance. Negotiating this poetic reality, we return to being with the other in their absence through the ghosts of the past and the inability to listen. Listen is a vertical dance performance that explores the sense of vulnerability while negotiating with reality.

## **SCREENING #2 – THEMATIC 2**

**at 6:00 PM**

### **Corps de Ballet**

**9:34**

**United States**

**Directed by Katherine Hutchinson**

**Performance**

The wispy quality of professional ballerinas sets a precedent for aspiring dancers that is often unachievable through healthy practices. As a result, young dancers are typically tempted to change their bodies by overexercising or under-eating. According to a study in 2019, dancers are three times more likely to develop an eating disorder than non-dancers. In my interviews with current and former ballet dancers, I found their stories of body shame and eating disorders echoed my own. We pushed ourselves through 8 hours of dance with nothing but a granola bar in our stomachs. We hated wearing a leotard and tights in front of a mirror all day. We all had these experiences and still, many of my interview questions were met with the phrase, "I've never told

anyone this but..." To start conversations about body shame in the performing arts, I am creating a collaborative video project using aerial dance and original music to express how ballet shaped my body image. This piece will demonstrate the restriction of body shame and the freedom of relinquishing that shame.

**We are the disturbing flashes of light from another world breaking into this one**

5:05

Ireland

Directed by Ken Fanning

Performance

Circus from the dark side of feel good.  
Fragments of circus from the shadows.

**The Sentience Project**

14:40

United States

Directed by Shannon Gray Collier & Lawrence Martinez

Performance

The Sentience Project is an exploration, a film, and a body of work that commenced

after I experienced a series of life-altering injuries. Exploring dreams, images, and the inspired movements that spanned six years of healing, this film documents my process of embodying an injured body and the compassion and sense of interconnectedness with other life that grew from this deeply sentient experience. The Sentience Project is a radical reclaiming of both my body's wisdom and the undeniable right that all animals have to inhabit theirs.

**Detached**

8:55

Ireland

Directed by Elaine McCague

Performance

Amidst the embrace of a rural derelict house, the work contains several layers exploring the complex relationship between personal identity and the impact of our surroundings on our sense of self.



*Sequoia Spirits*





Pictured: Cassandra Cornell & Rachel Karabenick  
Photo: Austin Forbord



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Film Curator  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

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## FUNDERS

The 2024 San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival is also generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, the San Francisco Dream Keeper Initiative, San Francisco Human Rights Commission, California Arts Council, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, the Terry Sendgraff Trust, and Zaccho's community of generous individual donors.

FORT MASON ART is pleased to continue supporting the San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival.



## UPCOMING AT ZACCHO

Zaccho Dance Theatre is currently accepting applications for two artist residency programs for Bay Area Black performing artists. Black Futures is a fully subsidized residency program for emerging and mid-career Black performing artists in the fields of dance, aerial arts, and theater who are working at the intersection of art and social change. In partnership with PUSH Dance Company, the Hip Hop Artist Residency & Training (HART) is a 4-month residency that provides training and performance opportunities to 8 Black performing artists ages 18 and up with aspirations to build a career in Hip Hop and the performing arts. Both programs are generously funded by the City of San Francisco's Dream Keeper Initiative.

**Black Futures applications are due August 26, 2024**

Website: [www.zaccho.org](http://www.zaccho.org)

**HART applications are due October 3, 2024**

Website: [www.pushdance.org/hart](http://www.pushdance.org/hart)



**Thank you for joining us in this celebration  
of innovation and artistry!**

**We hope you enjoyed  
the 2024 San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival**

**As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Zaccho  
Dance Theatre greatly appreciates the support  
of our community. Please consider making a  
tax-deductible donation today!**



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