



**AERIAL  
ACROBATIC  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**PROGRAM GUIDE**

**Amazing Aerialists**

**From Around the World Perform in Denver  
Two Competition Shows**

**MAY 31 & JUNE 1, 2013**

**AURARIA CAMPUS – KING CENTER**

**[www.aerialartsfestdenver.com](http://www.aerialartsfestdenver.com)**

## The Show

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

It is a first-of-its-kind event to showcase semi-professional aerialists in North America. A semi-professional aerialist is an artist who can be formally trained or self-taught, who has performed for one-time events or on a 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 pre-selection panel. More than 81 talented artists applied from across the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, and Columbia.

The criterion for judging was based on standards of Aerial Festivals from around the world. Friday's show is the Preliminary Competition, with the judges selecting one Finalist per discipline. The audience response helps select an Encore Act to perform in the final show Saturday night.

Saturday's Show will feature the finalists, the Encore Act, Innovative Performances, and the one Young Aerialist selected from all of the young aerialists who applied from across the globe.

The Festival celebrates undiscovered talent and also welcomes audience participation in selecting the Audience Choice Award and in Selecting who will win the Best Innovation Award. The Judges will select the Best Technical, Best Artistic, and Best Over-all Performance.

The Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival is an evolving opportunity, designed to 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 Third Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival.  
Enjoy the Show!*

## The Performers



### *Aerial Fabricators-Duo Trapeze* **Alicia Dawn & Molly Graves**

From Nashville, Tennessee, Alicia and Molly are excited to debut their trapeze act, "Time and Tide" at the Festival. They combine feats of daring with an emotive quality. Alicia and Molly completed the Professional Track

Training Program at New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) in Brattleboro, VT, in 2012; Alicia focused on contortion and aerial hammock, Molly on aerial rope (corde lisse) and static trapeze. They've previously toured the Southeast with Cirque Motion's show "Orbit," more recently, they hit the road with Girls on Trapeze and Susan Murphy.



### *Airplay-Innovation Silk Trio Performing Saturday* **Lynn Sabin Lunny, Meg Skill, Jackie Zalewski**

Lynn, Meg and Jackie created the silk trio act they are performing for the Festival as part of The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts annual Staff show, entitled "Phantastical Phanatical". All three women are proud teachers at The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts as well as members of the aerial and circus art performance group, AirPlay. They are thrilled to represent Philly in such a prestigious event and dedicate their performance to the rest of the staff and students of PSCA who truly are an extended family.

## The Performers

### *Duo Transcend-Duo Trapeze*



#### **Mary Wolfe-Nielsen**

Mary grew up in West Virginia. She met Tyce in Salt Lake City, Utah where they were both working as high divers in a cliff diving show. She found that she loved aerial arts more than any other performance art. Mary and Tyce became aerial partners in 2010 and were married in 2011. Last summer she performed as a silk artist in Cirque De La Mer. She teaches silks, rope,

and trapeze at Aerial Arts Of Utah and Darla's Aerial Arts. They perform with Voodoo Productions. She would like to thank her family for always supporting her and the arts.



#### **Tyce Nielsen**

Tyce grew up in Utah and his father is a professional magician and gifted Acrobat. He found aerial when Mary was looking for an aerial partner. He has traveled to Dubai performing tramp wall and 80 foot high dives into a 9 foot deep tank. He performed last summer as a tramp wall and Chinese pole artist in Cirque De La Mer at Sea World San Diego. He teaches aerial with Mary at

Aerial Arts of Utah and Darla's Aerial Arts. Tyce and Mary have decided to focus full time on developing their aerial acts and will be performing duo trapeze in Cirque De La Mer this summer.

### ★ *Circus Fact* ★

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.

The Flying Trapeze was invented by a Frenchman, Jules Leotard 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.

### *Innovation Cube Trio*



#### **Eric Henriquez Maldonado**

"Enrique" for short, is originally from Puerto Rico. He is thrilled to make his debut at the Denver Aerial Festival! A seasoned performer with Walt Disney Entertainment, Enrique has had the privilege of sharing the stage with such notable stars as Debbie Allen, Mariah Carey, and Jennifer Hudson. Enrique also performs as part of the

Apprentice Program for Antigravity where he is working to take his knowledge and talent to the next level. It is his passion, dedication to excellence, and love for the art that inspires him to continue his journey to becoming a professional aerialist. Many thanks to all those who continue to believe in him and hold him up even higher than he flies. FLY HIGH!



#### **Megan Johnston**

Megan is originally from Long Island New York and moved to Orlando Florida in January of 2012. She is currently a professional stilt walker and dancer at both Walt Disney World and Universal Studios. Megan began training at AntiGravity Orlando this past September and enjoys taking classes on several apparatuses such as silks, Lyra, cube as well as trampoline, tumbling, bungee and

wall track. She is very dedicated to becoming a professional aerialist and hopes to one day perform with Cirque du Soleil.



#### **Ariel Mosier**

Ariel Mosier was born and raised in Colorado, dancing and flipping for Airborne Gymnastics & Dance in Longmont. She was a student-athlete at Niwot High School, excelling in Gymnastics, Diving and Track until graduating in May 2012. After graduation she discovered the aerial arts and in September moved to Orlando, FL to begin training with the company AntiGravity, studying

aerial silks, lyra, cube, trampoline, bungee, and walltrack. She is currently in the Apprentice Program at AntiGravity and will continue to pursue perfection.

## The Performers



### Lauren Breunig

#### *Innovation Sliding Trapeze Performing Saturday*

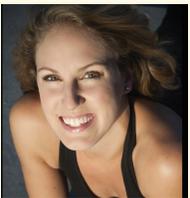
Lauren fell in love with circus while working as a counselor at Circus Smirkus during college. She graduated from the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) and professional training program. As a singer, Lauren has toured and recorded in the US and Europe with a variety of folk music groups. As a circus artist, she has delighted audiences with performances on her original apparatus, the sliding trapeze, as well as aerial sling, fabric, and in partner acrobatics. She teaches circus arts around the country and currently lives in Tempe, AZ.



### Angela McIlroy-Wagar

#### *Young Aerialist-Aerial Hoop Performing Saturday*

From Vancouver, BC, Angela is a grade ten student who has trained in circus arts since the age of five at Circus West and since the age of thirteen at Vancouver Circus School (VCS). She specializes in aerial hoop, silks, and contortion. Angela has performed with VCS Ringmasters, Inner Ring Circus, and as an independent artist at various community events. In August, Angela will be moving to Montreal to start grade eleven at the École Nationale de Cirque. In the spare moments she isn't training in circus arts, she is busy thinking about circus! Angela is excited and honoured to have been invited to perform at this festival and thanks her wonderful instructors, coaches, and parents for their support.



### Svetlana Delous

#### *Aerial Hoop*

From Vancouver, Canada, Svetlana has been performing since the age of five. Two years ago, while starting her Master's degree at The University of British Columbia, Svetlana began developing her skills on aerial hoop (lyra) and static trapeze. She has since had the opportunity to perform for InnerRing, Seattle Aerial Arts, TEDxTalks, corporate, nightclub, wedding, and luxury hotel events, as well as for outdoor circus productions and television. She currently performs with Blink Acro and has recently begun work to open a new training space, The Circus Lab Inc. in Abbotsford, Canada. Svetlana was recently invited to audition as an aerialist for Cirque du Soleil.



### Charly McCreary

#### *Aerial Hoop*

Based in Seattle, WA Charly is thrilled to be presenting her cerceau (aerial hoop) act at the Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival. Charly has studied aerial arts since 2001, and began learning single point cerceau in 2010 with Sam Alvarez, formerly of Cirque du Soleil, now aerialist and choreographer for Cavalia's newest show *Odysseo*. In addition to her work as a soloist, Charly is a founding member of Seattle's Cabiri performance troupe, an ensemble of dancers, acrobats and aerialists who depict tales from ancient mythology via contemporary dance and circus arts. Charly is also an aerial arts instructor in Seattle, where she specializes in inspiring her students to fly, soar and spin.



### Stacy Burchfield

#### *Aerial Hoop*

Stacy grew up dancing and tumbling in Oviedo, FL at University Performing Arts Centre where she studied acrobatics, jazz, ballet, lyrical, and tap. As an aerialist, Stacy began training 3 years ago at Metro Movement and Aerial Arts under the instruction of Christye Alan and Kate Coltman. In 2011, Stacy performed in *Luminescence* at the Gaylord Palms Resort and was the aerialist in Central Florida Ballet's *Nutcracker*. Most recently she performed in a small touring show called *Cirque Du Noel* as well as *Luminescence* at the Gaylord Palms Resort. Currently Stacy performs in many corporate events for Metropolis Productions, an entertainment production company in Orlando, FL.



### Elena Sanders

#### *Solo Trapeze*

Elena is an artist of articulation. Her ability to bend her body past the limits of human comprehension simultaneously bends the minds of the audience. Her strength is unparalleled; able to hang from her heels at full swing, she embodies the uncommon intersection of beauty, strength, poise, and terrifying determination. Elena's jaw-dropping abilities come from a past rooted in hard work and forced adaptability. Growing up in a house no bigger than a refrigerator box, she had no choice but to become as flexible as possible. Watch now as she takes the stage to stretch your wonderment to its limits!

## The Performers



**Alissa Feller**  
*Solo Trapeze*

Alissa began her circus arts career in 2009 at New England Center for Circus Arts in Brattleboro, VT where she studied static trapeze, duo trapeze and handbalancing. Shortly after graduating, Alissa gained professional experience working with Aerial Experience, Wise Fool, Circus Smirkus, Aerial Angels, Nimble Arts, and Girls on Trapeze, performing at various shows, theaters, street festivals, universities, casinos, art collectives, and convention centers. Most recently, Feller spent four months performing for Samsung at the World's Fair in Korea. Feller has helped promote the love of circus to children in public schools and acrobatic summer camps in a teaching and coaching capacity. She received a Bachelors of Fine Arts in 2008 from the University of New Hampshire where she studied painting and Spanish.



**Elizabeth Stich**  
*Solo Trapeze*

Elizabeth recently relocated to San Diego, CA to perform as an aerial tissue artist in Sea World's production Cirque de la Mer. A Georgia native and lifelong dancer, Liz discovered and fell in love with the aerial arts as a dancer at the University of Georgia and received the majority of her aerial training from workshops at New England Center for Circus Arts, training with Aimee Hancock, Elsie Smith, and Serenity Smith-Forchion. She holds an MFA in modern dance from the University of Utah and a certification in Laban Movement Analysis/Bartenieff Fundamentals through Integrated Movement Studies. Liz is also an instructor and performer with Aerial Arts of Utah and Voodoo Productions in Salt Lake City. When not dangling high above the ground, she can be found teaching a variety of dance courses at Weber State University or hiking in the mountains with her tireless dog, Beau.



**Andrew Leach**  
*Straps*

From a young age, Andrew has had a passion for the arts. Andrew graduated early from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. Quickly recruited by a prominent South Florida furniture chain for sales management, Andrew rediscovered his passion for art through interior design and visual merchandising. After a chance encounter with aerial fabric he was inspired to join the circus! After a full year of training five-days a week with his coach from the Moscow State Circus, Andrew started performing small gigs and short contracts here and there. He has mastered three apparatus in four years and is finally putting himself out on the market for full time contract work.



**Daniel Stern**  
*Straps*

Dan is an artist, athlete, instructor and perpetual student of the circus arts. He learned how to juggle on the beaches of California and quickly found that he was hooked on circus. He has trained straps under the gracious and watchful eye of Sellam al Ouhabi and Jonathan Fortin. He is also an accomplished hand-to-hand porter. Dan's interest in circus lies at the intersection of athletics and art. His work is that of sight, sound and emotion and is driven by his belief in the raw, pure potential of the human body and spirit.



**Kate Winston**  
*Aerial Silk*

Based in the Washington, DC region, Kate performs and teaches aerial arts. She has performed at venues such as the Atlas Theater and Studio Theatre in Washington, the Alley Aerial Festival in Baltimore and Sky Box in Brooklyn. Kate first studied aerial with Air Dance Bernasconi in Baltimore, where she fell in love with the aerial arts the first time she swung upside-down on a dance trapeze. Since then, she has studied with Arachne Aerial Arts, the New England Center for Circus Arts and many others. Kate founded her aerial company, Ciel Aerial, in 2011, and she helped found the DC Aerial Collective in 2010. When she is not doing aerial, Kate is an energy policy reporter.

## The Performers



**Kristin Mass**  
*Aerial Silks*

Kristin's goal in beginning aerial training five years ago was to have a ripped body. The physical challenges of climbing, stamina combinations, and flexibility lured her into the gym week after week. Two years later, she got her first performance opportunity. She was perform for her Church at their Easter services. This opportunity allowed her to take the art of aerial silk much more seriously. Kristin has since gone on to perform at local events in Orlando, Fl. Including a performance for the first lady Michelle Obama. In 2011 Kristin started teaching aerial arts classes. She loves all things aerial, and aspires to perform in a big time production some day.



**Elizabeth Smith**  
*Aerial Silks*

Liz discovered and immediately fell in love with aerial fabric at a traveling circus years ago. Since discovering an aerial community in Colorado, she has been passionately studying, performing and teaching on aerial silks, aerial hammock and lyra. You can find her teaching classes with Aerial Fabric Acrobatics in Denver and Aircat Aerial Arts in Boulder, and performing with artists such as Bluetech, En Fuego, Random Rab, Karsh Kale, the String Cheese Incident, in productions such as Cirque Side of the Moon, and at national festivals such as Sonic Bloom and Burning Man. When she's not wrapped up in the air, Liz works as a software engineer, plays the flute, and loves traveling, studying languages, playing with family and friends in lovely Colorado.



## Master of Ceremonies



**Eric Pung**

Eric is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado Denver and has performed professionally in Colorado and around the US. Along with theater and dance, Eric was also a competitive gymnast competing both nationally and internationally. Eric hopes that everyone will be inspired from the festival and will go out and peruse their passions and try new things.

### ★ Circus Fact ★ Innovation

Misha Matorin, a Russian aerialist who traveled with Cirque du Soleil in 1994 and spent 10 years developing his act, is quoted as saying:

"A circus performer spends a lifetime finding and perfecting a single act, and comes to be known by that act." The routine is meant to "create a portrait of life as an endless struggle between tyranny and freedom." What the performers want to do is reveal their feelings to the audience.

Circus performers have to keep reinventing their acts as they age and their body changes. 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. 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.

## The Producer

### Lynn Coleman

Lynn Coleman is an entrepreneur with a zeal for connecting people in projects as varied as the Board of Education and Flying Trapeze. She grew up in a performing family and was performing at the age of three doing hand-balancing with her father. Her family toured the U.S. and Canada performing trapeze, trampoline, clowning, and hand-balancing. They toured Europe with Holiday On Ice.

In 2002, she formed Aerial Fabric Acrobatics. Her company is the main sponsor of the Festival. It is a performance company, offers classes and sells aerial equipment around the world.

Lynn's association with the Burning Man community, as well as her background in performance led her to create the first Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival in 2011.

The Festival is meant to connect, inspire, offer learning opportunities, and to be fun!

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



### ★ Circus Fact ★

#### Barnum

The phrase: "There is a sucker born every minute." is not what P.T. Barnum said. He was a showman and knew people liked to be amazed. He observed that the public enjoyed being fooled and he is quoted as saying: "As long as there are children, there will always be a circus."

He started his touring shows at age 58. The shows were called "Barnum's Great Traveling Museum, Menagerie, Caravan. Hippodrome & Circus." He made his fortune from his American Museum in NY City, where he featured amazing oddities, animals, and people doing unusual feats like knife throwing and magic. He eventually joined forces with his competitor, James A. Bailey and formed the "Greatest Show on Earth." Barnum purchased land in Denver, which is now known as the Barnum Neighborhood.

## The Judges

### 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. Between 1997 and 2006, Marshall worked with the Cirque du Soleil as assistant head acrobatic coach, project manager, and acrobatic and performance designer. Marshall actively worked as co-creator of the Festival in 2011 and 2012. M. Garfield is the Artistic Director of the 2012 Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival.

### Tanya Burka



Tanya is a professional aerialist who has worked with a diverse range of productions, including Cirque Du Soleil's Quidam, where she currently performs the iconic aerial silks solo. Tanya also has extensive experience as an instructor and artistic counselor, working with recreational and semi-professional aerial programs and students across the US since 2005. Tanya presented workshops and served on the judging panel of the 2011 Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festival, and is happy her touring schedule allows her to return this year.

### Rachel Walker



Rachel was the original Swinging Trapeze Artist with Cirque du Soleil's KOOZA from 2006 until 2008. She has performed with Cirque Eloize TV 5, Circus Discordia and the Dresden Dolls. Rachel is a certified Aerial Trainer through the Ecole National de Cirque, in Montreal. She has worked with many schools across North America including: ENC (Montreal), Aloft (Chicago), Awol (Portland), PSCA (Philadelphia), Circus Juventas (Minneapolis), Circus

Warehouse (NYC), Kinetic Theory (Los Angeles), & Trapeze High (San Diego) Her choreographic work has been featured in Cirque du Soleil's "O", Cirque Bezerk, Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival, & Aerial Arts Festivals around the world.

## The Team



*Artist and Festival Coordinator*  
**Jessica Johnson**

Jessica was a competitive horse vaulter in high school. She loves dogs and has volunteered for animal placement organizations. She volunteered to help the 2011 Festival after coming to an introduction to aerial arts class in 2010. Jessica is a whiz at organization and spread sheets. Her keen mind,

common sense, and positive spirit are essential to the Festival's success. Jessica loves to hike with her dog Marly. She gardens and is learning the art of healing with herbs. She is studying to become a nurse.



*Stage Manager*  
**Brian Hassler**

Brian first became involved with the Aerial community in 2001 when he took a flying trapeze class with Thin Air Trapeze in Denver, CO. He has since retired from performing but is happy to have an opportunity to contribute to the 2011 and 2012 Aerial Acrobatic Arts Festivals. Brian is a Guild

Certified FELDENKRAIS Teacher(R) and spends his free time walking his dog, practicing martial arts, and occasionally attempting to practice martial arts on his dog (who usually wins).

*Technical Director*  
**Rob Byers**

Rob is the Director of the Kenneth King Academic and Performing Arts Center and a consultant for the 2013 Festival. He brings many years of experience with theater, trade shows and concert rigging to this seminar. He has been on staff with the King Center since it was built in 2001.



## The Team

### Lighting Design

Erika Kae

### Lighting Assistant

Karl Jones

### Acrobatic Rigging

Tony Carpenter, Silas Beaver, and Barca Chase

### Rigging Stagehands and Lighting Assistants

Megan Stern, Dave Schmitz, Chris Mckeeman, Jamey Atchison, and Josh Judd

### Jugglers

Mark Stampfle and Eric Batliner

### Artist Music Coordination

Casey Stongle

### Sound Technician

Lauren Sganga

### Videographer

David Mitchell

### Photographers

Scott Murphy and Timothy Knott

### Graphic Design

Suzie Shapiro

Poster - Logo - Program - Holiday Card

### Festival Printer

Ben Cerveny

### Marketing & Volunteer Coordination

Kami Mauller and Steve Shattil

### Media Coordination

Elisabeth Monaghan

### Artist Lodging Coordination

Rob Layne

### Workshop Coordination

Ambria Zeitner

## Special Thanks

### University of Colorado at Denver

Department of Theater, Film, and Video Production

### Daniel Koetting

Department Chair, UCD Theater, Film, and Video Production

### Laura Cuetara

Laura's passion for Aerial Silks, and her tenacity of spirit, body, and mind have made what seemed impossible possible.

### Amber Cook

Production Manager King Center

*And the many volunteers & supporters who have helped the Festival grow to its third year.*

# AERIAL ACROBATIC ARTS FESTIVAL



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