

OUR STORIES

4:30 PM



MAY 20TH



Lara Roché-Sudar - Rope

Lara (she/they) found circus arts at a tumultuous time in her late twenties, and the years since have felt like both a homecoming and a revelation. Her love for this community and for her rope practice has been a source of support, growth, and inspiration through periods of change and grief. She is delighted to share the revival of this rope act which is very close to her heart.



Liz Young - Sling

When everything shut down for the pandemic and there was no aerial joy had to be found in long walks after the rain amid flowering trees, and music. Liz is very grateful to the people who created her song: Music composition and production by Michael Owcharuk, Saxophones performed by Kate Olson, bass performed by Michael Catts, and drums performed by Cody Rahn.



Nivy Sonker - Fabric

Nivy took her first aerial class during mid pandemic just to learn something new and different. Since then she's been ecstatic about silks/fabrics and all the different acrobatics that could be done on them. Today's act is all about showcasing positivity, inspiration and personally achieving something that has never been done before!



Emma Address - Fabric

Emma started taking aerial classes in December of 2021. She has a background in dance from growing up, and she enjoys taking familiar shapes and relearning them — as well as many new skills — on silks. Her act pulls on another inspiration from adolescence, as some people might recognize the song from the iconic Twilight soundtrack. This is her first aerial show.



Ruin - Dance Trapeze

After a 3-year hiatus due to injury, Ruin found her way back to aerial in August 2020. Despite an at-times paralyzing fear of heights, she is deeply grateful for the lessons aerial teaches her, lessons in self-reliance, and tenacity. The story Ruin presents tonight is dedicated to her dad, Dan: May he find the peace in death that was never accessible to him in life. ❤️



Jo Burkholder - Dance Trapeze

Jo loves to combine dancing with the apparatus, costume, makeup and music to tell stories with many layers. This one is a retold classic tale about a scissor-wielding gal and her long-haired beau seen through feminist lens. Beneath the pages of the story however, lies a deeper truth, a tale of an inner struggle to acknowledge, honor, and balance masculine and feminine elements.



Laura Smestad - Lyra

Laura took her first lyra class in 2021 as a way to escape the pandemic blues and to overcome her fear of heights. When she's not in the hoop, Laura is a clinical mental health counselor and professor who loves adventuring in the PNW. Laura made her aerial debut last year, and she's excited to be back on the Versatile Arts stage!



Cheryl Carp - Fabric

Cheryl joined the aerial community last year after a lifetime of following other paths and pursuits. She is grateful for the patient training she has received from Jen and Bev and to have been welcomed into this space.

This is her first performance and her piece illustrates the beauty, chaos and confusion, strength, resilience and joy that she finds in life.



Kristiyan Eliev - Fabric

This is a heartfelt aerial silks act, born from Kristiyan's unwavering dedication to the circus arts over the course of four transformative years. It serves as a poignant expression of his emotional journey, navigating a foreign country with no friends and battling overwhelming anxiety and fear. Through the delicate artistry of silks, he finds solace and release, transcending his struggles with grace and resilience.



Kevin Ruddell - Rope

Kevin Ruddell performed Modern Dance in his twenties, then took up aerial in 2013, at the age of 60. For years he had watched his kids taking circus classes and thought it was just for young people. Then he saw someone older than him he would give aerial a try. It is like dancing in the air!