

ABOUT THE SHOW

Above the Belt is an aerial showcase that has been dazzling New York audiences for the past four years with a constantly evolving line-up of aerial artists.

Producers BRITT NHI SARAH, ALEXANDER REA, and The Zipper Factory provide a platform to display the most current aerial art in the world, where artists from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia perform original work on traditional and new aerial apparatus.

The Zipper Factory, just off Broadway New York was once a zipper and belt factory in the heart of the fashion district, and is now New York City's premiere alternative and experimental performing arts venue.... the city's most invigorating new arts scene.

This raw and genuine setting was developed by owner Lee Davis into a theatre that feels like a museum of New York history, and has become home to many new and established artists. The audience is ensconced in a comfortable car seat as the shows unfold.

The Zipper Factory invited BRITT NHI SARAH and CARLA CANTRELLE to produce an aerial showcase in 2005. Above The Belt has received critical acclaim for the past four years.

For the Fall 2008 season of the show, BRITT NHI invited ALEXANDER REA to produce the show with her.

To learn more about the show, it's producers, artists and future performances please visit:
www.abovethebeltentertainment.com.

When you are at the website please sign up for the mailing list. You can also find the show on Flickr and Facebook.

Upcoming Winter/Spring 2009 showcases:

Sunday, February 8 at 7pm

Sunday, March 8 at 7pm

Sunday, April 5 at 7pm

Sunday, May 3 at 7pm

Special thanks to:

David Conrad Brouillard, Bill Coyle and Lee Davis for all their work and support at The Zipper Factory. Mia Wolff for her assistance in rigging. Kerri Pagliarini, Bryan Sears, The Rea family, Nicole Miller, Angel Maldonado, Jessica Epperly, The Concept Farm, Allen Lee and Jan Meissner.



Please Recycle

BRITT NHI SARAH and ALEXANDER REA,
in partnership with The Zipper Factory
present

ABOVE THE BELT

December 14, 2008

ACT I

BRITT NHI SARAH
Lyra
"Frozen"

REBECCA STRONGER/STRONGERCIRCUS
Trapeze
"Anywhere"

RACHEL FIELD
Silks
"In the Shape of a Girl"

KRISTIN YOUNG
Rope
"Three Times"

JOSHUA DEAN AND BEN FRANKLIN
Silk
"Someone to Watch Over Me"

KRIS OLNESS
Hammock
"A Spicy Christmas Coffee"

ACT 2

ANDREA DAMIAN
Lyra
"Ghost of Christmas Past"

NATALIE AGEE AND C. RYDER COOLEY
Trapeze
"Emberly & The Fireflight"

HILARY SWEENEY
Hammock
"9 to 5"

MICHELLE DORTIGNAC
Double Cloudswing
"Solo Again"

DANE CLARKE
Rope

JOSHUA DEAN AND BEN FRANKLIN
Spanish Web
"In The Mood"

ARTIST'S BIOS

NATALIE AGEE is an inter-disciplinary performer who runs Ruby Streak Trapeze Studio. She would especially like to thank Ryder, Amos, and all of her friends here tonight, for joining her. Many thanks to Britt Nhi and Alexander. www.natalieagee.com

DANE CLARKE's professional career as an acrobat and aerial artist started in April '99, where he trained at the Circus Space in London in preparation for the millennium dome show. After the show he began to work freelance in the UK and Europe. He also performed as an aerial rope specialist in the feature film "Batman begins". and research and development in King Arthur. He is currently working in Las Vegas at the Wynn resort in the multi million dollar aquatic production Le Reve. He's an original cast member and has been with the show over four years which he performs 10 shows a week.

C. RYDER COOLEY is a multi-media artist and aerial explorer, currently based in Troy, NY. This is her first performance up off the ground since a hand injury this summer. Thanks to Natalie for welcoming this tender flight. www.carolynrydercooley.com

ANDREA DAMIAN has been performing on trapeze and lyra for over nine years. She also is one-half of the aerial duo PAIROUETTE. Andrea has learned her craft and has taken inspiration from many gifted performers. She currently trains at the Trapeze Loft, and has an ongoing collaboration with Hangtime Presents (Toronto/NY).

JOSHUA DEAN is jubilant to be returning to Above the Belt. He has hung from the ceilings for Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Peter Pan, Seaside Music Theatre in Aida, the NCL Sun for Jean Anne Ryan Production Company, and Broadway Bares: Myth Behavior to name a few. He has danced for the legendary Twyla Tharp and performed across the country. He currently teaches Aerial Arts privately in New York City. www.aerialjosh.com

MICHELLE DORTIGNAC began training on Aerial Silks in 2002 under the tutelage of Chelsea Bacon. She is the founder of Unnata® Aerial Yoga, a Yoga class that incorporates use of an aerial apparatus to assist with deep stretches and relaxation. (AerialYoga.com)

RACHEL FIELD has been studying silks for a few years and when she's not at her day job she prefers hanging upside down. She thanks Hilary, Laura, Sarah and Jon for all of their support. She thanks Sam for inspiring her.

Photographers

JAN MEISSNER www.janmeissner.net

ALLEN LEE alleges@yahoo.com

ARTIST'S BIOS

BEN FRANKLIN is an actor/singer/dancer and is very pleased to join Above The Belt. Most recently, he has played the Scarecrow in "The Wizard Of Oz" and is happy to be home again in New York. Theatrical credits include: "My Fair Lady" at Avery Fisher Hall with Kelsey Grammer and Kelli O'Hara, "The Music Man" with Shirley Jones and Patrick Cassidy, and aerial work in "Aida". He is delighted to share the stage with the ever talented Joshua Dean. www.iambenfranklin.com

KRISTIN OLNESS has toured the country with Circus Nexus, Poet Productions, Cirque Le Masque, and the Imaginaerial troupe performing on many different aerial apparatus. She is currently teaching aerial at Trapeze School New York. www.trapezeschool.com

REBECCA STRONGER has been tirelessly pursuing the art of physical training and performance for decades. Her primary circus teachers have been Master Trainer Lu Yi in handbalancing and Elena Panova in static trapeze—both at The Circus Center in San Francisco. After a long tenure as part of the award-winning, Brooklyn-based, performance company-LAVA, Rebecca established STRONGERCircus in 2006 and has had her work presented by venues in New Mexico San Francisco and New York City. Thanks to Natalie Agee and Ruby Streak Trapeze Studio.

HILARY SWEENEY's act "9 to 5" was creatively born out of her own experiences as a full-time corporate employee by day and a professional aerialist by night. Hilary took her dance background to new heights in 2004 and trained with some of the top aerialists in the field. Since then, she has been performing and teaching her heart out as a teaching artist for the Westchester Arts Council, Tarrytown YMCA, and independently at the Streb Lab, in Brooklyn, NY. She would like to extend a special thanks to her soon-to-be husband, Manuel Arce, for putting up with her whining during all the training and injuries that come with being an aerialist. Email lux.aerial@gmail.com

KRISTIN YOUNG. Just like everybody else, young Kristin learned to pick herself up, fall down, and repeat. 25 years later she's still at it, but higher off the ground and with a little more grace. Kristin recently developed aerial choreography for a production of Tom Stoppard's Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead and she has choreographed and performed solo aerial works for "Above the Belt" at the Zipper Factory Theater and the NYC Aerial Dance Festival. As a dancer, she has performed with Movement in C, Steve Koplowitz, Noemie Lafrance, and the physical theater troupe Red Metal Mailbox.

Visit www.abovethebeltentertainment.com for more artist information both past and present.