

# RACHEL STRICKLAND

AERIALIST, PERFORMANCE ARTIST, AND ARTISTIC MENTOR

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CV 2023



Jump to:

[Performance and Choreography](#)

[Coaching and Speaking](#)

[Training and Education](#)

[Awards and Publication](#)

[References](#)

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## Performance and Choreography

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**Rome Symphony Orchestra** 100 year anniversary concerts October 2022

Aerial hoop and petri dish soloist *Genesis*, Rome Georgia

**Midas is King** aerial dance film 2021

Official Selection: San Souci Festival of Dance Cinema 2021

Women's History Month Official Selection: 2022

Official Selection: Exeter Dance International Film Festival 2022

Official Selection: Circus International Film Festival 2023

**Caroline Calouche & Co.** Charlotte, NC

"Dance and Circus for All" 2020

Aerial hoop quartet *Glittercrash*

*Mud bath* aerial hoop solo

"Rouge Cabaret" 2022: Aerial hoop and water performance *Genesis*

Monologues/spoken word: *Meatsuit Monologues*

**Blood Meal** multimedia performance piece with Katina Bitsicas 2021

Exhibitions:

Bolivar Art Gallery, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Performance is Alive at Satellite Art Show, Miami Art Basel Week, Miami Beach, FL,

Curated by Quinn Dukes

Act Creation Lab, Montreal, Canada, Curated by The Artist Athlete

**Nick Price Foundation** New Years Eve Gala 2020 Charleston, SC

Double mask character/belly dance

**Quadruped** four-legged stiling monster character 2019 Charleston SC

City of Charleston Farmers market

Circus Building Entertainment- Day of the Dead event  
Quadruped character performance  
Group choreographer and casting  
Cirque du Cosplay convention, Charlotte, NC 2022

**Bloom Festival** 2019 Charlotte, NC  
Aerial hoop soloist *Lion Skin*

**Circus Center Cabaret** 2018 San Francisco, CA, guest artist  
Aerial hoop soloist- *Chariot*  
Aerial loops duet- *Archetypes*

**Corporate Events, San Francisco Bay Area** 2013-2018 produced by:  
Earth Circus Productions  
Intrepid Entertainment (formerly Trapeze World)  
Circus Center Productions  
Syn Circus  
Entire Productions  
Velocity Circus

**Kinetic Arts Productions** Oakland, CA- a disobedient circus  
Co-casting, Aerial performer, choreographer, *Salvage* 2015  
Co-casting and choreographer, *Inversion* 2016

**Circus Automatic** San Francisco, CA- experimental circus and storytelling  
Soloist, *Raised by Wolves* 2015  
Soloist, Corps, *Into the Mouth of the Wolf* 2016  
Soloist, duo aerial loops, *The Boy Who Died Wolf* 2017

**Fidget Feet Aerial Dance** Ireland 2011-2013  
Aerial performer: *Rite of Spring* Cavan, IE  
Aerial performer, actress: *A Fairy's Tale*, Middleton, IE  
Choreographer: *The Elves and the Shoemaker*

**Artist Residency at Supperclub San Francisco**  
Resident artist and performer: Feb-March 2014  
Guest artist Supperclub LA 2012

**Natural Wings Aerial Dance** Western Australia / Canada 2012-2014  
Performer, choreographer: *Candy Girls*  
IGA Perth Royal Show 2012  
Perth Fringe Festival 2013  
Performer, choreographer: *Elements*  
Toronto Busker's Festival 2013, **Awarded People's Choice**  
Port Credit Busker's Festival 2013

Choreographer, guest director: *Tandem* 2014

**New Orleans Fringe Festival**

Performer, choreographer: *domestic variations* 2011 with **tictock aerial dance**

**Awarded "Best of the Fest" by the Nola Defender**

Writer, director, performer: *Icarus* 2013 self produced duo aerial theater,

**Awarded "Best Bet" by Southern Glossary**

**Resident Aerialist: The Pink Door 2009-2012**

Weekly performances in Seattle, WA

**Emerald City Trapeze Arts 2009-2012** Aerial performer, choreographer, coach

Director, *Carnevolar iv: The Haunting* 2013

Guest artist, *Carnevolar viii: Phobia* 2017

**Bellevue Arts Museum** Bellevue, WA 2011

Commissioned full length aerial theatre show

Director, choreographer, performer

Dance and aerial fabric soloist

**Moisture Festival** Seattle, WA

2010 soloist

2011 soloist, corps "Moistettes"

**QUEENSRÿCHE Cabaret** National tour USA - July-October 2010

Aerial fabric soloist, Aerial hoop soloist

Pointe soloist

Guest artist 2014 The Triple Door Seattle WA

**Commercial for Xbox** - Twisted Pixel's Comic Jumper - September 2010

Stunt actress

**Star Angels - The Show** Tulalip Casino WA, May 2010

Company member

Dancer, vocalist

**The Vau de Vire Society 2007-2009** company member

The Moscova Affair - National Tour presented by Stoli - August-October 2009

Pointe soloist, corps dancer, pole acrobat

Outside Lands Festival 2009 ~corps

Edwardian Ball 2009 ~corps and pointe soloist

Storytime Festival 2008 ~corps

Guest choreographer *The Soiled Dove* 2016

**Nekyia Dance 2007-2009** company member

*Scorpio Showgrrrl Sublime 2007 dance soloist, corps*

## Coaching and Speaking Experience

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**The Audacity Project 2017-present:** Founder, Director

8-week online mentorship course in professional development for working artists

Equipping artists with the tools necessary to be working professionals

Over 300 artists served

**Gravity & Levity Present: Dissecting Aerial Symposium 2022** virtual and in person summit

Guest speaker presenting: *POSER*

**Caroline Calouche & Co:** *Rouge*, solo speaker *Meatsuit Monologues 2022*

Charlotte and Greensboro, NC

**Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity for Architecture and the Allied Arts 2021:** virtual summit

Featured speaker on Imposter Syndrome and reclaiming your future as an artist

**Aerial Dance Festival presented by Frequent Fliers 2020:** virtual summit

Speaker/Presenter on Imposter Syndrome and reclaiming your future as an artist

**React RISE Mentorship Course for performance artists 2018-2020** Auckland, New Zealand

Guest Lecturer in Professional Development for artists

Artistic mentor

**Taking Flight: CREATE aerial intensive** Dublin, Ireland 2020

Creative mentor to 4 aerial hoop artist's

Funded by the Irish Arts Council

**Piccolo Spoleto Festival 2019** Charleston SC

Guest speaker / storyteller, The Best of "Truth Is..."

**Edisto Women's Club 2019** Edisto Island SC

Guest speaker "Do What You Want"

**King's Daughters 2019** Edisto Island SC

Guest speaker "Courage"

**Irish Aerial Dance Festival 2011-2019** Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Guest artist and lead aerial hoop instructor / intermediate through professional

Solo and group choreographer

**Irish Aerial Creation Centre's: Creative Intensive 2016-2018** Limerick, Co. Limerick

Artistic mentor, technical coach on aerial hoop, corde lisse, fabric, single point trapeze

**Brain's Biceps Bliss 2019:** 10-day aerial arts retreat in Krabi Beach, Thailand hosted by Dances in Air LLC  
Guest artist, artistic mentor, coach  
Aerial hoop, spin theory, artistic process  
In collaboration with Dr. Jen Crane and Shannon McKenna

## Training and Education

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### **University of North Carolina at Asheville 2005**

BA in Literature and Creative Writing / Minor in Dance

### **City College of San Francisco 2014-15**

Studied Medical Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, Nutrition, Zoology

### **Aerial acrobatics: 2007-present**

Specializing in solo aerial hoop, aerial fabric, duo aerial loops/lyra, and flexibility acrobatics  
Circus Center (San Francisco, CA) Kerri Kresinski, Chloe Axelrod 2007-2009  
Emerald City Trapeze Arts (Seattle, WA) autodidactic residency 2009-2012

### **Classical ballet: 15 years**

Royal Academy of England and Cecchetti methods  
Company member of the Union County Youth Ballet for seven seasons (Monroe, NC)

### **Modern dance: 5 years**

University of North Carolina at Asheville under Connie Schrader according to the methods of  
Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and others (Asheville, NC)

### **Bellydance: 2 years**

Egyptian, Fusion, ATS  
Onca O' Leary of Baraka Mundi (Asheville, NC)  
Kristina Nekyia of Nekyia Dance (CA)

### **Ballroom/Partnering Dance- Lindy Hop and Blues, one season at Herrang Dance Camp**

Frankie Manning and others (Herrang, Sweden)

## Rewards and Publication

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- Official selection of *Midas is King* by the Exeter Dance International Film Festival 2022, San Souci Festival of Dance Cinema 2021, and the Circus International Film Festival 2023
- Awarded Associate Artist-in-Residence 2021 by the Atlantic Center for the Arts
- Featured in *Authority Magazine* and *Thrive Global* 2020
- Awarded People's Choice Award, Toronto Busker's Festival, 2013 for *Elements*; performer and choreographer with Natural Wings Aerial Dance (Perth, W. Australia)
- Awarded "Best Bet" by Southern Glossary Magazine for 2013 New Orleans Fringe Festival for *Icarus* full length aerial theater show (writer, director, performer)
- Awarded RAW Performing Artist of the Year, Seattle 2013 aerial sling duet
- Two poems published in *Headwater's Magazine*, UNCA 2003, 2005
- Awarded \$4,500 in scholarships for essay composition 2000

## References

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Chantal McCormick, CEO and Creative Director of Fidget Feet Aerial Dance, Irish Aerial Dance Festival, Irish Aerial Creation Centre  
[chantal@fidgetfeet.com](mailto:chantal@fidgetfeet.com)

Kristina Nekyia, Founder and Director of Fit & Bendy (former Creative Director of Nekyia Dance)  
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