

Aerial Performance Rigging A Workshop for Riggers, Teachers and Performers

When you walk into a space and look up in the air, what do you look for to know that you (and your students) will be as safe as possible? This two-day, hands-on workshop will blend theory and practice, providing a comprehensive introduction to the principles and practices of flying performers safely.

This workshop will not make you a qualified rigger. It will, however, help you to be safer and more responsible as a rigger, performer or teacher. You will know what you can safely (and what you should not) rig yourself, what to say to the professional riggers you may be dealing with, and how to use your eyes and ears to identify potentially unsafe situations. Finally, it will provide a number of tried and true “fail-safe” practices that can be used safely in many everyday rigging situations

The Workshop will include:

- Safety and risk management principles and best practices applicable to aerial performance rigging in particular and entertainment rigging in general.
- The physics of aerial performance, the forces and loads which aerial circus and dance performance puts on rigging systems and equipment, and the selection of appropriate equipment and hardware to withstand those forces and loads.
- Some theory and a lot of practice. We will rig and fly on a number of different systems, and will have the opportunity to work with various kinds of equipment. Using computerized load cell technology, we will demonstrate and measure the actual loads that aerial performance puts on rigging systems, as well as the actual breaking strength of system components.
- Useful skills for rigging and for life, including the basic knots everyone should know.

Workshop Leader

Jonathan Deull has been a student of aerial performer rigging since 1996 when his daughter began performing as a circus aerialist at the age of seven. He has designed and executed aerial circus and dance rigging both in the US and internationally, and is the author of the chapter on rigging for the recently published book, *Aerial Dance*, by Jayne Bernasconi and Nancy Smith. A co-founder of AirBorne! DC and director of Zip Zap Circus USA, he currently works freelance on theatre and special event production and design projects and teaches seminars on aerial performer rigging. He is an ETCP Certified Theatrical Rigger and ETCP Recognized Rigging Trainer, and a member of the Safety Committee of the American Youth Circus Organization (AYCO).