A photograph of an aerialist performing on a red rope. The performer is upside down, wearing a light blue tank top and dark shorts. They are holding the rope with both hands and feet, with their legs crossed. The background is dark with a grid pattern, illuminated by red and blue lights.

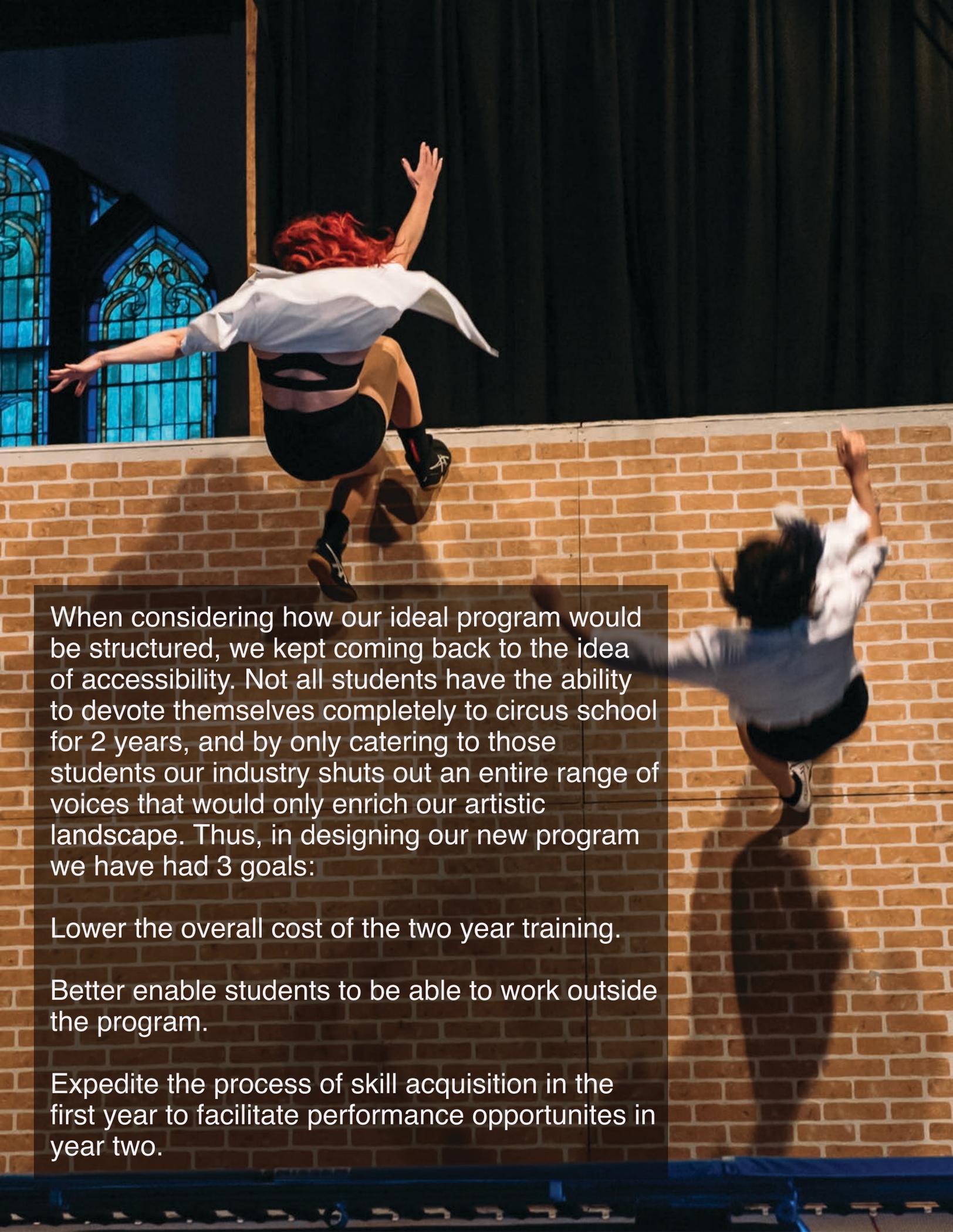
Aloft Circus Arts

Professional Training Program

Turning **circus** students into circus **artists**

A group of diverse young people, including women and men of various ethnicities, are shown in profile, looking upwards with expressions of awe and curiosity. They are in a dark room, possibly a theater or rehearsal space, with a prominent arched window in the background that is illuminated with a vibrant blue light. The overall atmosphere is one of inspiration and artistic pursuit.

Since beginning in 2013, the mission of our program is to create curious and questioning artists committed to advancing the role of circus in the US and abroad. We aim to inspire our students to inspire others and to give them the tools to make physically and emotionally rigorous work that challenges the ideas of who we are and what we can do, as individuals and a unified force. We want a circus revolution and we are building an army.



When considering how our ideal program would be structured, we kept coming back to the idea of accessibility. Not all students have the ability to devote themselves completely to circus school for 2 years, and by only catering to those students our industry shuts out an entire range of voices that would only enrich our artistic landscape. Thus, in designing our new program we have had 3 goals:

Lower the overall cost of the two year training.

Better enable students to be able to work outside the program.

Expedite the process of skill acquisition in the first year to facilitate performance opportunities in year two.

The first year of the program is broken up into 4 quarters, lasting approximately 3 months each, with significant breaks in between each quarter for rest and recovery.

Y1Q1 (Year One, Quarter One):

- *5 hours per day training with fellow pro track students in physical theater, acrobatics, aerial arts, dance, conditioning and flexibility with additional classes in nutrition, body maintenance and anatomy.

- *Up to 5 additional weekly apparatus-based classes from Aloft's recreational schedule to allow exploration of new apparatuses and help determine what you will major in.

- *Exploration of the history and styles of circus performance to give you a context in which to envision what your personal style and unique voice will be.

Y1Q2

- *6.5 hours of training per day in the foundational disciplines, without the additional weekly classes

- *Introduction of open training time

- *Private lessons in your major with the goal of creating a final act on the apparatus of your choice

AN INDEPTH LOOK AT YEAR ONE



Y1Q3

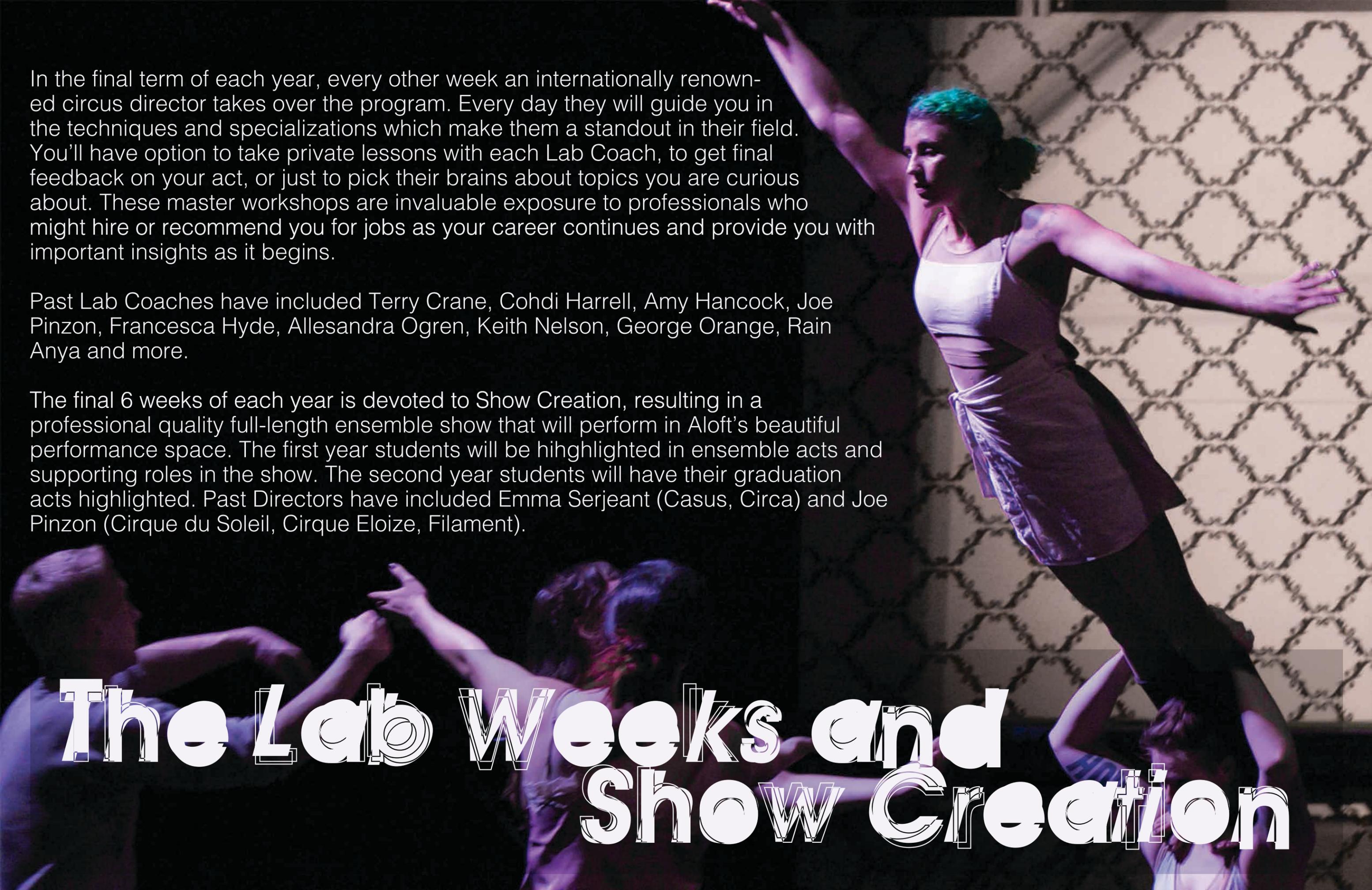
- *5-8 hours per day of training (with rest days built in to ensure proper recovery and injury prevention), including up to 3 hours per day of open training time.

- *Heavy focus on act creation and artistic development with continued private lessons on your primary apparatus.

- *Classroom sessions will cover stage makeup, costuming, career planning, branding and promotion, creating a CV and much more.

Y1Q4 --

The Lab Unit and Show Creation



In the final term of each year, every other week an internationally renowned circus director takes over the program. Every day they will guide you in the techniques and specializations which make them a standout in their field. You'll have option to take private lessons with each Lab Coach, to get final feedback on your act, or just to pick their brains about topics you are curious about. These master workshops are invaluable exposure to professionals who might hire or recommend you for jobs as your career continues and provide you with important insights as it begins.

Past Lab Coaches have included Terry Crane, Cohdi Harrell, Amy Hancock, Joe Pinzon, Francesca Hyde, Allesandra Ogren, Keith Nelson, George Orange, Rain Anya and more.

The final 6 weeks of each year is devoted to Show Creation, resulting in a professional quality full-length ensemble show that will perform in Aloft's beautiful performance space. The first year students will be highlighted in ensemble acts and supporting roles in the show. The second year students will have their graduation acts highlighted. Past Directors have included Emma Serjeant (Casus, Circa) and Joe Pinzon (Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Eloize, Filament).

The Lab Weeks and Show Creation



AN INDEPTH LOOK AT **Year Two**

Those students looking to go more in depth into the creation of a phenomenal graduation act, and who have demonstrated the discipline, attitude and skill acquisition necessary for a career in circus will be invited to join us for Year Two. After taking the summer to work, play or continue training, the second year of the program runs from Sept-June and will be a more personalized experience than year one, with fewer group classes, more independent training, and one-on-one coaching in your act and in career development. You will work with your coach to create a personalized training plan designed to reach your unique goals. In addition to this, you'll have regular feedback sessions with your cohort and coaches, lessons with outside coaches to gain new perspectives, and works-in-progress showings. Once your skills and acts have attained a professional level, you may be invited to partake in paid performances in and outside of Aloft to gain valuable performance experience. Together we will ensure that you are ready to take the next steps in your circus career upon graduation, by organizing photo and video shoots, promotional material reviews and assisting in outreach to future employers.

The final term of Year Two will be similar to the final quarter of Year One, with participation in Lab Weeks and final show development. The Year Two students will be highlighted in their show, providing professional video and photo footage and an experience that will carry them into their professional career.

"Aloft's full time program has helped me grow physically, mentally, and artistically. The coaches are so talented and helpful! The program gives you time to explore a variety of circus arts, then allows you to hone in on what you are passionate about. In addition to outstanding aerial training, Aloft offers a variety of apparatuses that are not often available, including tightwire and tramp wall. The lab year gives you the opportunity to work with circus professionals that share their experience, training methods, and practical advice about succeeding as a circus professional. I consider myself extremely lucky to have participated in it, and would recommend it to anyone hoping to become more technically proficient, creative, and physically expressive."
Christine Conroy

"The coaches are so supportive. The facility is inspiring and you are surrounded and encouraged by other performing circus artists the entire time. I have made many discoveries throughout the past 8 months: primary among them is the fact that I am still an artist, plain and simple." Johanna Vargas

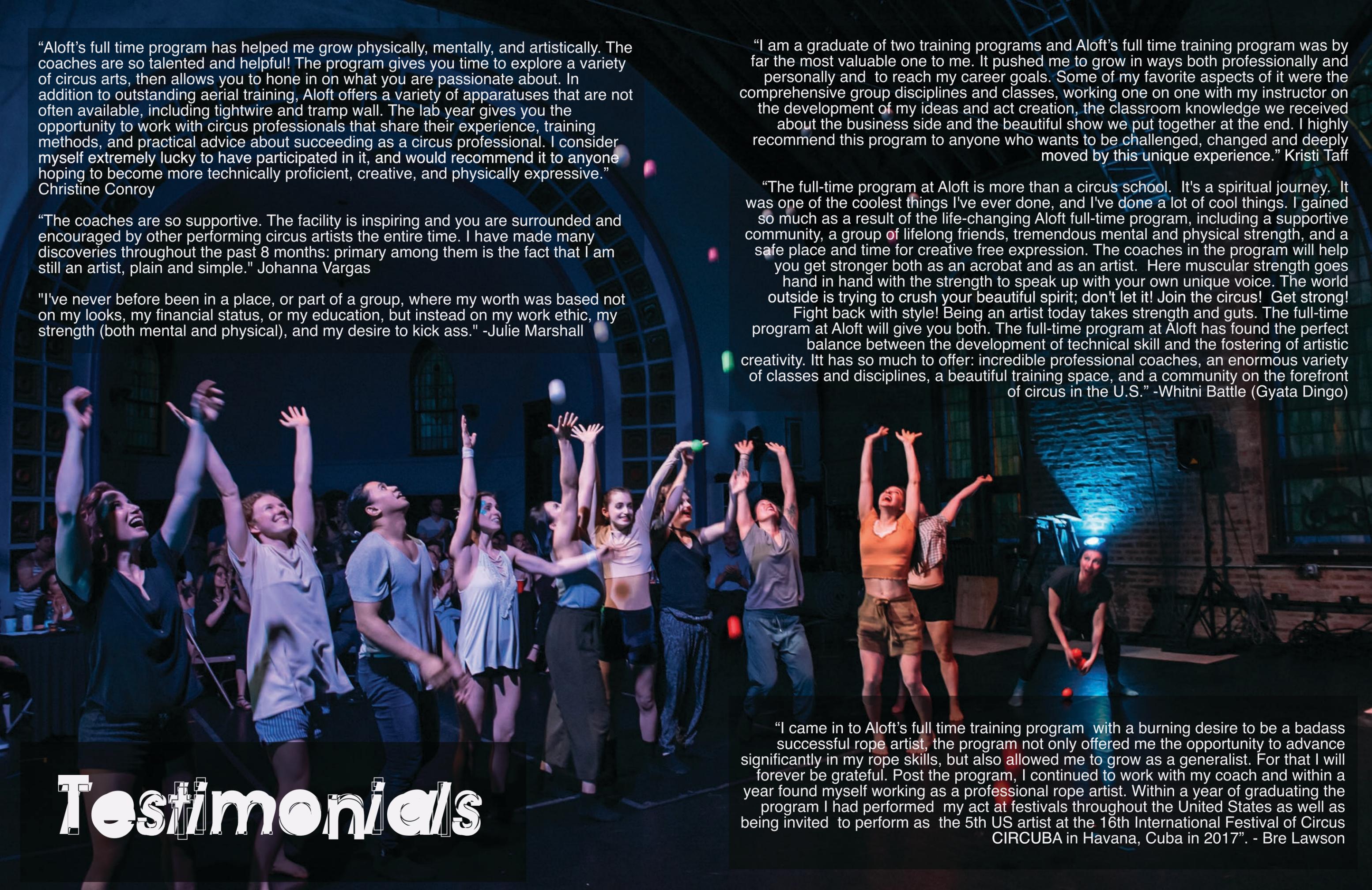
"I've never before been in a place, or part of a group, where my worth was based not on my looks, my financial status, or my education, but instead on my work ethic, my strength (both mental and physical), and my desire to kick ass." -Julie Marshall

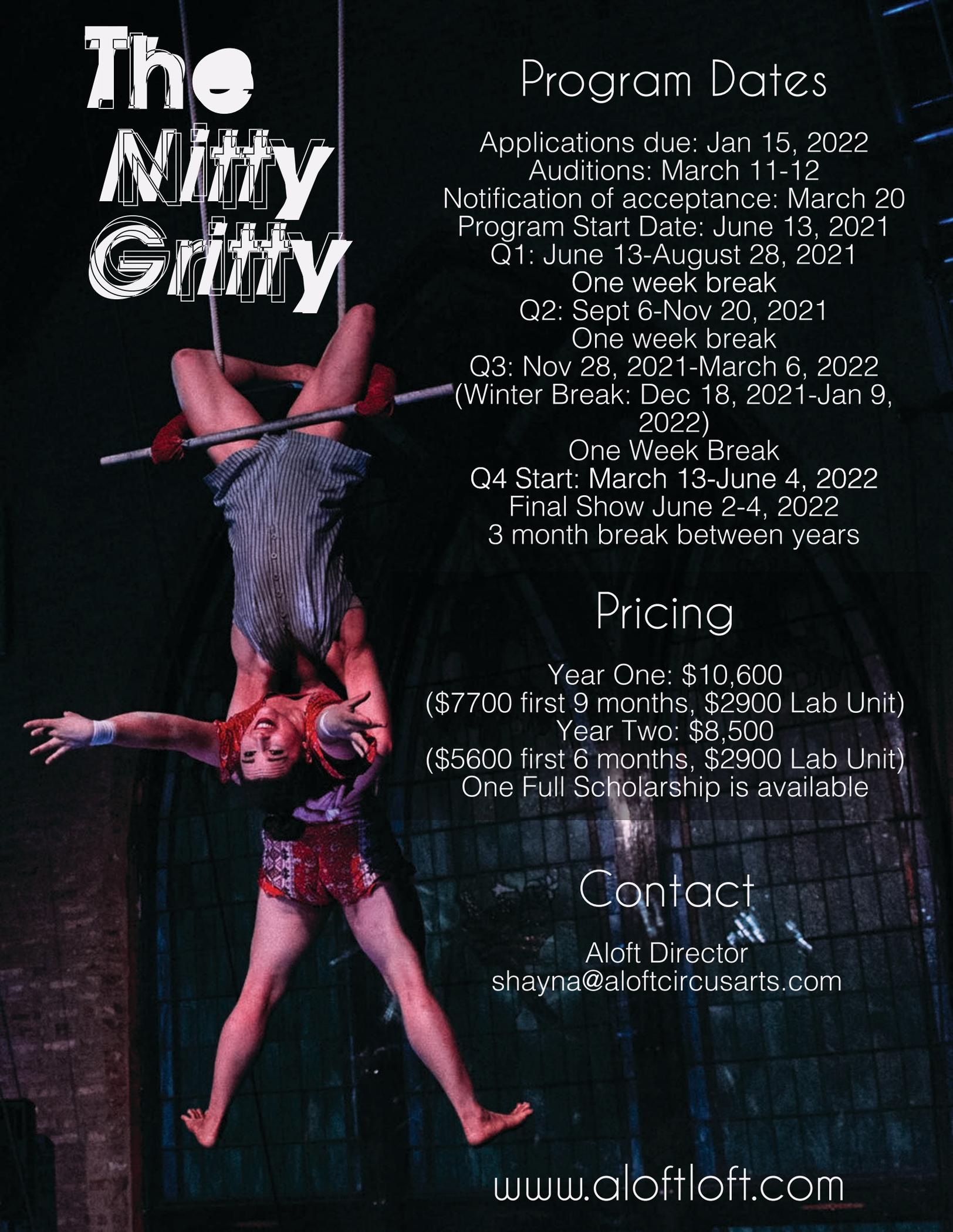
"I am a graduate of two training programs and Aloft's full time training program was by far the most valuable one to me. It pushed me to grow in ways both professionally and personally and to reach my career goals. Some of my favorite aspects of it were the comprehensive group disciplines and classes, working one on one with my instructor on the development of my ideas and act creation, the classroom knowledge we received about the business side and the beautiful show we put together at the end. I highly recommend this program to anyone who wants to be challenged, changed and deeply moved by this unique experience." Kristi Taff

"The full-time program at Aloft is more than a circus school. It's a spiritual journey. It was one of the coolest things I've ever done, and I've done a lot of cool things. I gained so much as a result of the life-changing Aloft full-time program, including a supportive community, a group of lifelong friends, tremendous mental and physical strength, and a safe place and time for creative free expression. The coaches in the program will help you get stronger both as an acrobat and as an artist. Here muscular strength goes hand in hand with the strength to speak up with your own unique voice. The world outside is trying to crush your beautiful spirit; don't let it! Join the circus! Get strong! Fight back with style! Being an artist today takes strength and guts. The full-time program at Aloft will give you both. The full-time program at Aloft has found the perfect balance between the development of technical skill and the fostering of artistic creativity. It has so much to offer: incredible professional coaches, an enormous variety of classes and disciplines, a beautiful training space, and a community on the forefront of circus in the U.S." -Whitni Battle (Gyata Dingo)

"I came in to Aloft's full time training program with a burning desire to be a badass successful rope artist, the program not only offered me the opportunity to advance significantly in my rope skills, but also allowed me to grow as a generalist. For that I will forever be grateful. Post the program, I continued to work with my coach and within a year found myself working as a professional rope artist. Within a year of graduating the program I had performed my act at festivals throughout the United States as well as being invited to perform as the 5th US artist at the 16th International Festival of Circus CIRCUBA in Havana, Cuba in 2017". - Bre Lawson

Testimonials





The Nitty Gritty

Program Dates

Applications due: Jan 15, 2022

Auditions: March 11-12

Notification of acceptance: March 20

Program Start Date: June 13, 2021

Q1: June 13-August 28, 2021

One week break

Q2: Sept 6-Nov 20, 2021

One week break

Q3: Nov 28, 2021-March 6, 2022

(Winter Break: Dec 18, 2021-Jan 9, 2022)

One Week Break

Q4 Start: March 13-June 4, 2022

Final Show June 2-4, 2022

3 month break between years

Pricing

Year One: \$10,600

(\$7700 first 9 months, \$2900 Lab Unit)

Year Two: \$8,500

(\$5600 first 6 months, \$2900 Lab Unit)

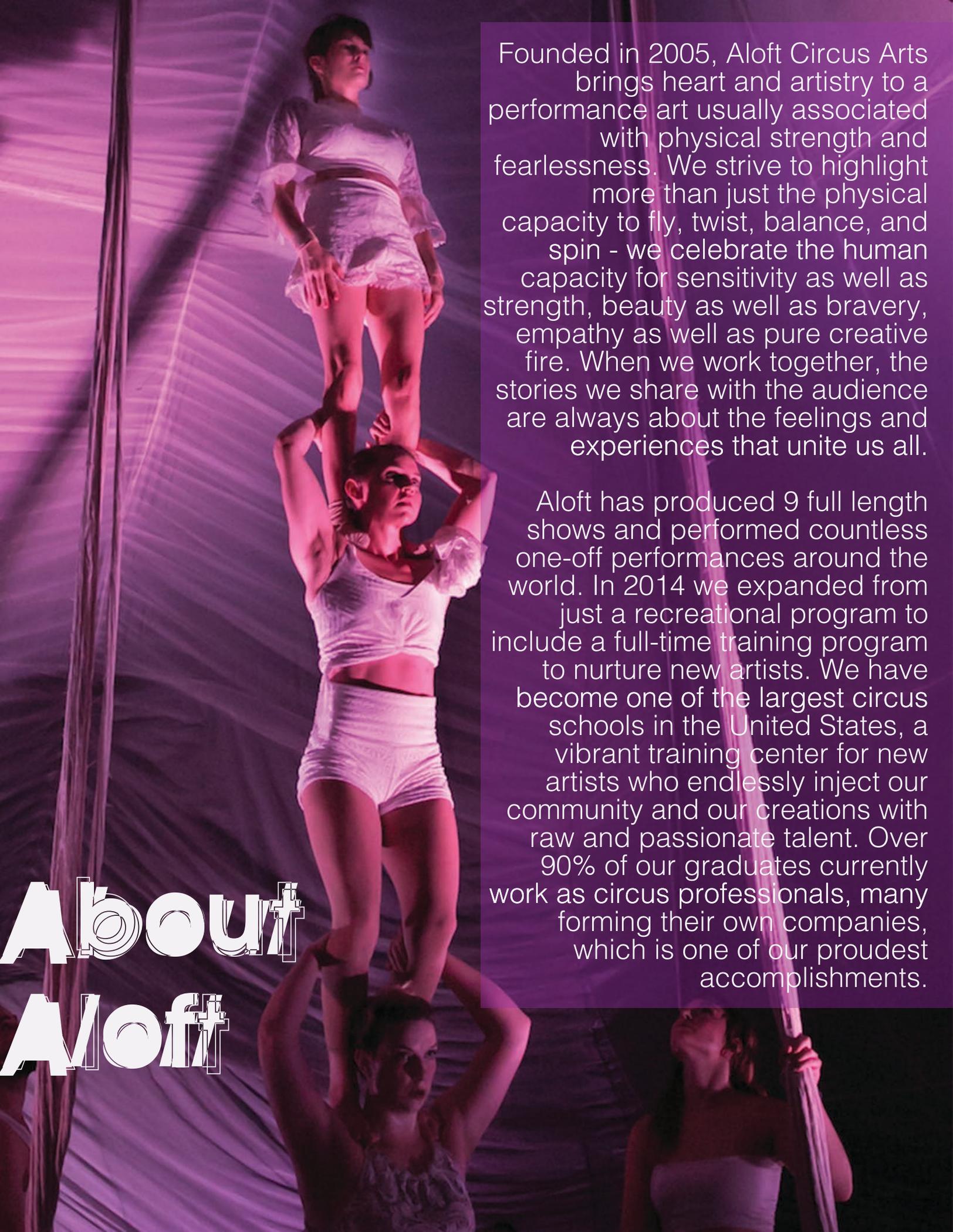
One Full Scholarship is available

Contact

Aloft Director

shayna@aloftcircusarts.com

www.aloftloft.com



Founded in 2005, Aloft Circus Arts brings heart and artistry to a performance art usually associated with physical strength and fearlessness. We strive to highlight more than just the physical capacity to fly, twist, balance, and spin - we celebrate the human capacity for sensitivity as well as strength, beauty as well as bravery, empathy as well as pure creative fire. When we work together, the stories we share with the audience are always about the feelings and experiences that unite us all.

Aloft has produced 9 full length shows and performed countless one-off performances around the world. In 2014 we expanded from just a recreational program to include a full-time training program to nurture new artists. We have become one of the largest circus schools in the United States, a vibrant training center for new artists who endlessly inject our community and our creations with raw and passionate talent. Over 90% of our graduates currently work as circus professionals, many forming their own companies, which is one of our proudest accomplishments.

About
Aloft