



# ALOFT PRO PROGRAM

## YEAR 2 INFO

Year 2 of the professional training program at Aloft is where curiosity is nourished and creativity ignited. Transform the movement research and skill you have been developing into a world-class circus act. Experience Lab Weeks and network with renowned circus directors and instructors from all over the world, a personal two coach mentoring team, real world classroom guidance on how to work in the industry, small class sizes, ample open training time and production class where you learn to produce a circus show in exchange for a percentage off of your tuition - Aloft's Year 2 is a program like *no other!*

Year 2 is a much more personalized program with more in-depth one-on-one coaching tailored to your specific goals. Taking the form of a personalized residency, year 2 will focus on the creation of an exquisite graduation act developed through intensive private coaching, group classes, a prescribed independent training plan, personalized career guidance and mentorship and a final ensemble show creation process featuring your act!

### **YOUR COACHING TEAM** (*centered on you!*)

You will get one-on-one coaching and mentorship that is focused on your personal growth, your specific career goals and answers to all of your questions on pursuing your future circus career with a two coach mentoring team - you will work with a coach you select to be your skills/technical coach and another coach that you will work with as your creative/director coach. Together this team will help you realize your goals.

### **THE CLASSES** (*work with your ensemble!*)

You will have small daily group classes with your cohort in dance, juggling, acro/tumbling, physical theater, act creation/feedback, conditioning and more. Classroom will teach you HOW to work in today's circus climate with lessons on networking, website building, promo videos, CVs, technical riders, rigging and more.

You will also graduate with not only performing skills - but skills on how to produce and run a circus show. Learn how to stage manage, cast, market, lighting and sound, emcee, rig and more in our unique Production class. You will create a bi-monthly community cabaret show with your cohort and 100% of all ticket sales go directly to YOU as a discount off your tuition. Students can expect to earn at least \$1,000 of their school tuition! Learn marketable skills AND earn money?! Major win.

### **THE LAB WEEKS** (*the star of the show!*)

The Lab Weeks are the most exciting aspect of the program. Every month a Guest Artist will design a week-long workshop that is specific to their creation, directorial or research style, exposing the students to techniques and ideas from around the world. Some weeks will culminate in informal performances. The artists that we are choosing are renowned and experienced in a wide array of circus making, from international festivals, show creation, act development and more. Each student will also get a private lesson from each Guest Artist to receive crucial feedback that will help them complete the program with a world-class act.

The final two months of the program (April and May) will culminate in the creation of a brand new circus show, featuring each artist's feature act and a barrage of ensemble pieces highlighting the extensive technique each student will accomplish in all aspects of circus. A Guest Director will lead the students in 4 hours of creation per day to result in a show that can stand on its own and go forward into the circus world, if so desired by the cast. The show will provide the footage and marketing materials needed to move to the next step in a professional circus career.

### Guest Lab Artists

Past Lab Coaches have included: Tanya Burka (Cirque du Soleil), Amy Cohen (Circus Culture), Liza Rose (Fly Circus), Chloe Farah (Cirque du Soleil), Susan Voyticky (Circus Space), Cohdi Harrell (Ricochet), Rain Anya (Paper Doll Militia), Keith Bindlestiff (Bindlestiff Family Cirkus), Emma Searjent (Causus, Circus Oz), George Fuller (Mary Bijou Cabaret, No Fit State), Terry Crane (Acrobatic Conundrum), Joe Pinzon (Cirque Eloize, Cirque du Soleil) and more.

Year 2 of the Aloft Pro Program was transformative for my development as an artist. The chance to work with so many circus arts professionals in our lab weeks, as well as with our amazing director for the final show, was an invaluable experience that I would choose every time in every universe."

-Lulu Walkowicz, class of 2024