

The Aloft Youth Ensemble Presents

What Came with the House

a contemporary
circus show

May 29 & 30

8:30pm

Aloft Circus Arts

Tickets



ticketleap.com/events/aloftcircusarts

Program

Turn phone horizontal
for best view

Poster design: Eleanor Marchese and Rachel Nesnevich

*A young woman moves into
an old home and finds she
is not alone.*

*Something is inside...and it
whispers in the dark.*

Warning:

**This show has flashing lights, abrupt noises and ghosts
that may follow you home...**

*"She will forget...just like we
did"*

Directed by:

"The house changes, but we do not."



Kristi Alyssa

"I think that ghost stories are humans trying to make sense of the feared unknown."



Rachel Nesnevich

"I believe the spirits of those who have passed live on in some form."

Show Map

Whispers in the Dark

Opening

Through the Veil

Silks

The Guide

Eleanor Senior Solo

The Lost

Acro

The Other Sister

Claire Senior Solo

What Came with the House

Duo Lyra

Passage to Transcendence

Juggling

The House Changes, We Do Not

Finale

They'll Make You One of Us

Satya Senior Solo

And Still They Move

Candle dance

No Way Out

Birdcage

Don't Trust the Gentle One

Sling

Sound Design:
Rachel Nesnevich
Kristi Alyssa

Photography:
Nancy Behall

Videography:
Luis Cardenas

Lighting Design:
Kristi Alyssa

Stage Crew:
Allison Gast

Costume and Makeup Design:
Rachel Nesnevich

Valeria Rosero
Mary Govertsen

Lighting Technician:
Raven See

Sarah Tapper

Set/Prop Design:
Kristi Alyssa

Sound Technician:
Greta Humphrey

Programs: Kristi Alyssa

*"It repeats and repeats until
you are gone..."*

"Do not trust the gentle one."

Special Thank You:

To our subs who contributed their skills to our show:

Stacie Bogle, Lulu Walkowicz, Liam Bradley, Camille Swift

The Parents of AYE...

thank you for all your dedication, commitment and love to our program

"CLARA"

The real resident ghost of the Aloft bell tower

We hope she enjoys our show...

Margaret Holton, Diana Gogu, Carrienne Popek, Shelley Miller, Mary Gouverts

For lending your old things to help bring our scenery to life!

"You'll understand soon..."

The Young Woman



Satya Dominguez-Hultgren

The Sisters



"She stands where you can't see..."

Eleanor Marchese Claire Nietzsche

"We are the part that did not leave..."

Vivienne Foy
Junior



"Yes! I believe in ghosts. So many people have convincing stories about ghosts!"

Talia Berman-Cutler
Junior



"Anyone who does not believe in ghosts just hasn't met one yet..."

The Last

Natalia Cuevas

Junior

Karoline Treptow

Junior

*The
Last*



“I believe that spirits linger if they have unfinished business and that regardless they can cross over for Dia de los Muertos every November.”



“I do believe in ghosts, but not in a traditional sense. I think people leave some of their energy behind when they die, so there are spirits roaming around, but I don’t believe in ghosts with consciousness or intention.”

Nikita Mallik
Sophomore



**"I do not believe in physical
ghosts...."**

Madi Holmes
Sophomore



"I believe in ghosts, I feel that they're everywhere."

*The
Last*

"We stood there too..."

Ada Borntrager
Sophomore



"I do not believe in ghosts because I have never seen one."

Noa Kim-Cohen
Freshman



"I don't believe in ghosts."

*The
Last*

Liam Dolik
Freshman

*The
Last*



"I do not believe in ghosts."

*"We walk and we walk but its
always this room.."*

AYE STUDENT LEADERS

2025-2026

Eleanor Marchese

Satyra Dominguez-Hultgren

*"You were not supposed to
hear me..."*

Senior

Claire Nietzsche

Senior Solo: The Other Sister

Claire is going to Tulane University in New Orleans to study psychology.

Her favorite memories of AYE are right before a show when we're about to all perform together.

I believe in ghosts.



Senior

Eleanor Marchese

Senior Solo: The Guide

Eleanor is attending Bryn Mawr College, majoring in Biology (Pre-Med) and minoring in Spanish.

Her favorite AYE memory was from tech night for the show “Somewhere Out There” where we finally saw our first ensemble show come to life.

I do believe in spirits more than ghosts! I occasional receive “signs” from those who have passed.



Senior

Satya Dominguez-Hultgren

Senior Solo: They'll Make You One of Us

Satya is going to San Diego Circus Center for their Prep Year to study juggling, rope and clowning. She plans to attend Scripps College in San Diego study math, biochemistry, and religion.

Her favorite AYE memory was making the trapeze act for From the Ground, Up: more specifically "BACKWARDS?!"

I don't believe in visible ghosts but I believe in the idea of spirits existing in a place.



AYE Alumni Updates

Maggie Marko (2023) just graduated from Circadium School of Contemporary Circus as a part of their 7th and final graduating class. She majored in contortion and hand balancing. In her time in the Aloft Youth Ensemble she performed her first contortion act and found her love for ensemble creation. That love only grew during her time at Circadium. She is excited to return to Chicago where her love of circus started and to join the professional world.



Daisy Coleman (2024) is about to finish her sophomore year at Northwestern, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre. While at Northwestern, she has continued to train and perform at Aloft, and recently choreographed and performed a solo silks piece in Sanctuary this past February. This summer, Daisy is interning as a research assistant at The Family Institute at Northwestern, and in the fall she is zipping off to Denmark to study abroad in Copenhagen!

Alex Miller (2023) just performed in her junior year at Illinois State University's Gamma Phi Circus. She was elected Act Captain of the Lollipop act in which she choreographed, led and performed. She begins her final year at ISU and Gamma Phi Circus this fall.



Stay tuned to see the Aloft Youth Ensemble on the tv show
“Roadtrip Nation” in the future!
(Estimate season release date is spring/summer 2027).



Upcoming Shows and Events at Aloft

No Waste, No Fun

The Aloft Professional Training Program Year 2 Graduation Show

Directed by Laura Stokes - June 12/13

Trans Movement Festival and Queer Pride Cabaret

presented by Such Creatures, Reminiscent Circus Karma Carnelian, and Synapse Arts - July 18/19

Catch both Rachel and Kristi performing in the Queer Pride Cabaret on the 18th. Recommended age of attendee is 18+.

El Show De Las Preguntas

Aloft instructors Valeria Rosero, Carmen Kingsley and Laura Torres ask: ¿Cuántas preguntas tiene un gato? How many questions does a cat have? FIND OUT at EL SHOW DE LAS PREGUNTAS (The Show of Questions!) Puppetry, circus, live music and more — inspired by Pablo Neruda's Book of Questions & the illustrations of Paloma Valdivia!

Friday JUNE 26 at AVONDALE Park (1130am & 3pm) & Monday JULY 27 at ARCHER Park (130pm & 5pm)!

ALL AGES! FREE ADMISSION!

Follow @curiosamente.chicago on Instagram for more details.

Follow us on social media:



@aloftyouthensemble

@aloftcircusarts

Welcome to the new 2026-2027 AYE members:

Hazel, Lucia, Ezri and Mothra

Interested in applying to join the Aloft Youth Ensemble?

**Have questions on what your goals your student should aim for to be
eligible to audition?**

Email Youth Program Director Kristi: Aloftkids@gmail.com

Aloft Management Team:

Shayna Swanson: Director

Zoe Sheppard: Studio Manager, Adult Program Director

Kristi Alyssa: Youth Program and Professional Training Programs Director

Kelly McDowell: Finance Manager

Sarah Tapper: Administrative Manager

Valeria Rosero: Events Manager



Merchandise Available at:
aloft-circus-arts.creator-spring.com

