

carolinecalouche & co.

EXPECT *the* UNEXPECTED



Rouge

Rouge

PRESENTED BY



Founder & Artistic Director **Caroline Calouche**

February 9

Wortham Center for the Performing Arts | Asheville

February 10

Carolina Theatre of Greensboro | Greensboro

February 16 - 17

Booth Playhouse at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center | Charlotte

February 24

Fletcher Opera Theater at the Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts | Raleigh

Rouge

Welcome to the 10th edition of **Rouge**! Not Rogue; however, it fits as well.

Rouge is a cabaret show where you can Expect the Unexpected.

Our #1 goal is to have a great time you. Rachael Houdek, our Madame of Ceremonies, is your guide. So sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

2024 Artists & Collaborators

Caroline Calouche

Jenna Ciotta

Javier Gonzalez

Sam Hollis

Rachael Houdek

Kim Melohn

Eli Motley

Taylor Railton

Lighting Designer: JP Woodey

Scenic Designer: Jennifer O'Kelly

Stage Manager: Valerie Wheeler

Rigger: Morgan Calma

Costumes: Caroline Calouche & Artists

Aerial Apparatus Construction: Todd Spiering

Tito's



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AUSTIN ★ TEXAS

About Us

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people of diverse backgrounds to explore beyond their boundaries through performance and education.

Our vision is to create educational opportunities for people to experience the world from a unique and artistic perspective, which will enrich their lives and the lives of those around them.

We are proud to be a resident company of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

The Charlotte Cirque & Dance Center is the school for Caroline Calouche & Co., where we have classes for ages 4 to adult in contemporary dance, jazz, ballet, acrobatics, partner acrobatics, aerial silks, trapeze, aerial hoop/lyra, German Wheel and much more.

School Staff: Kristin Bridges and Kaila Rhyne

Faculty: Aaron Atkins, Cadence Binkley, Caroline Calouche, Carlos Alexis Cruz, Stormi d'Evreux, Allison DeFelice, Jennifer Foster, Sergii Kudriavtsev, Jaala McCall, Phillip McRorie, Kim Melohn, Kaila Rhyne, Matt Sanchez, Sarah Small and Neelanthi Vadivel

Board Members

Dr. Elizabeth Peterson-Vita Interim Board Chair

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Christopher Huntley Treasurer

Gina Antilus, Blair Primis

[CC&Co. Website](#)

[CC&DC Website](#)

Rouge

Who's Who

Caroline Calouche

Caroline's dancing roots began in the small town of Gastonia, North Carolina (12 miles outside Charlotte) and branched out Texas Christian University for two BFA degrees in Ballet and Modern Dance. From there she studied in Europe in Rome, Brussels and then completed a postgraduate program in choreography at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance.

Finally home sick, Caroline returned to her hometown and saw that Charlotte had a stronger arts scene than when she left for college. So she founded the contemporary dance and aerial company Caroline Calouche & Co. in 2006. She is known for blending contemporary dance with aerial arts as well as merging ballet, partner acrobatics and contact improvisation to create her own style in floor partnering.

She has created over 70 choreographic works for the professional stage. Notable works are 'Carmina Burana', 'Lingua', 'Star Gazer' and 'Clara's Trip'. This Summer, Caroline will premiere a new work at the world renowned American Dance Festival. She continues to push herself physically as a performer and mentally as a choreographer.

Many people have inspired her along the way in the dance and circus field. Some influential teachers are Li-Chou Cheng, Elizabeth Gillaspay, Mary Cochran, Susan Douglas Roberts, Kerry Kreiman, Susan Quinn, Joao da Silva, Andrew Harwood, Libby Farr, Keren Levi, Elsie and Serenity Smith, Molly Graves, Susan Murphy, Nancy Smith, Nicole Merman, Christine van Loo, Aimee Hancock, Amanda Lynch, Rodleigh Stevens and Tanya Burka.

Rachael Houdek

Rachael Houdek is no stranger to Charlotte stages as she spent twelve years producing, directing, choreographing and starring in Rachael Houdek's Cabarets, as well as, Stephen Seay Productions all over town. With her only classical vocal training coming from Frank Mastracola and Eugene Fleming from 11-13 years old, Rachael considers herself a self taught vocalist. Charlotte will always hold a special place in her heart, however, is no longer the place she calls home. She has relocated to Chicago and is having a great time exploring the arts scene and meeting new talents. "Big thanks to Caroline for having me back. Cheers to another year with Rouge!"



‘You can like the life you're living, you can live the life you like...’

Jenna Ciotta

Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Jenna's early years were spent developing a love of dance, theatre, and dry heat. She found circus arts after completing a BA in Gender Studies and an MA in Human Rights. Circus offered a new and exciting creative outlet for personal expression. Her mixed background in academia, activism, and movement draws her into spaces where performance arts and politics intersect.

She is a member of the 2019 inaugural graduate class of the 3 year Pro-Track Program at the New England Center for Circus Arts. She is a member of the Boston Circus Guild, and currently lives in Northampton, MA.



Javier Gonzalez

Javier has performed Clara's Trip the past six years in a variety of roles including Beau and Candycane. He began his career in dance in 2008 studying hip-hop and various Latin Style Dances. In 2009 He became a company member of Ballet Folclórico de las Americas and LeColours Latino Dance.

He was the principal dancer for the modern department at CPCC Dance Theater from 2010 to 2015. He has also danced with ECHO Contemporary Dance Company and the Moving Poets of Charlotte as well as a guest dancer for Carnaval Carolina, Charlotte's largest Latin festival.

He has been a backup dancer for Latin artist including Las Fenix, Jorge Celedon and former Miss Universe Alicia Machado. On the side Javier enjoys teaching dance to Latin girls preparing them for their quinceañeras celebrations. He currently is a manager at Brixx Pizza in Fort Mill, SC.



Sam Ellis

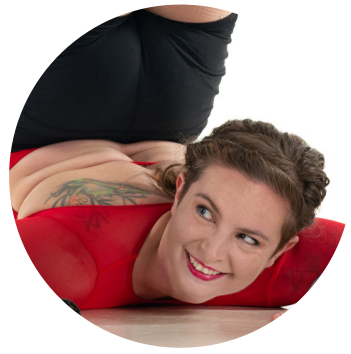
Sam Hollis is a multidisciplinary circus artist based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. With a background in gymnastics and dance, he taught himself how to juggle with the intention of running off to join the circus. At the age of sixteen, he joined Circus Smirkus, an American touring youth circus company. After three summers performing around New England and New York, he found his love for the circus art form and way of life. In 2016, he joined the National Circus School of Montreal in order to turn his passion into a career. He pushed himself to advance both technically and artistically while developing his fresh and quirky style. Sam graduated from the National Circus School of Montreal in 2020 with a specialization in juggling and acrobatics.

He has since gone on to perform both locally and around the world with Montréal Complètement Cirque and Machine de Cirque, among others. Although trained in the circus arts, Sam aims to blend circus, dance, and performance art in order to create unique works that challenge what defines circus.



Kim Melohn

Kim is a multi-disciplinary circus performer and coach with a specialty in bending gravity to her will. She chooses to triumph over that overwhelming force via contortion and vertical apparati. Ever since she learned how to climb fabric, in 2014, she has hardly been able to come out of the air. While living in the Chicago suburbs, Aloft Circus Arts was her circus home. There she worked with aerial and flexibility coaches: Hayley Larson, Natalie Abel, and Julie Marshall. In 2021 she started training full time at the renowned New England Center for Circus Arts, where she switched her focus to contortion under the guidance of Stephanie Abrams.



Eli Motley

Eli is a choreographer, dancer, teacher, and currently a MFA Degree of Dance and Choreography candidate at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Eli holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Theatre and a Bachelor of Science in Civil/Environmental Engineering from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

After graduation, Eli relocated to Chicago and danced three seasons as a company member with Chicago Dance Crash, 2017-2020. As a solo artist he choreographed and performed his works in Chicago, Wisconsin, Norfolk, and Texas. In addition to performing, he taught dance in the Chicago Public Schools System, various dance studios, and high school dance festivals. Eli is now an MFA Candidate for Dance and Choreography at The University of North Carolina Greensboro. When not dancing Eli loves to play piano, cheer on the Indianapolis Colts, and watching Parks and Recreation with his wife Christina and cat Levon.



Taylor Railton

Taylor, born and raised in Bermuda, is a freelance dancer and collaborator based in Charlotte, NC. Taylor is an alumni of SUNY Purchase College Dance - magna cum laude, attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts' high school program, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, under the direction of Summer Lee Rhatigan, and London Contemporary Dance School.

She has performed works by Ohad Naharin, Bobbi Jene Smith, Alex Ketley, Tom Weinberger, Annie Rigney, Hannah Garner, and Kyle Abraham. She also had the opportunity to study under Danielle Agami and Doug Varone. As a member of Purchase Dance Company, Taylor has the pleasure of performing work by Ana Maria Lucaciu at New York Live Arts in 2019.

Since graduating, Taylor has performed with Uana Dans at New York Dance Festival and Houston Dance Festival. More recently, she has performed with Stewart/Owen Dance based in Asheville, NC, and Eric Mullis on his most recent production, "Motive Forces" in Charlotte, NC.



Photo by Stewart/Owen

Production Team

John P. Woodey, Lighting Designer

John has designed for numerous companies including the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Olney Theatre Center, Imagination Stage, Shaker Mountain Opera, Theatre Charlotte, Gallery Players(Off Broadway), Access Theatre(Off Broadway), Chautauqua Opera and Charlotte Ballet. John has also designed lighting for broadcast including Netflix's Fortune Feimster's Sweet and Salty and the ACC Football Honors Program. John spent time in London designing for the Central St. Martins School of Art where he designed lights for "The Birds Project." Other lighting credits include assisting at Baltimore's Centerstage, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Geva Theater and the Alley Theatre. John was faculty and designer at DeSales, Catholic and Johnson C. Smith Universities. He is the Assistant Professor of Theatre at Winthrop University specializing in technical direction and design. He completed his graduate work at Ohio University where he received the regional Peggy Ezekiel Award of Outstanding Achievement in Design. He is a member and Vice President of the IATSE Local 322 in Charlotte, NC. www.johnpwoodey.com

Valerie Wheeler, Stage Manager

Valerie Wheeler has served as a Production Stage Manager at opera companies and festivals across the US, including New York City Opera, Portland Opera, Opera Carolina, Toledo Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Wichita Grand Opera, Wolf Trap Opera Company, Opera Cleveland, University of Southern California/Thornton Opera, Opera Santa Barbara and Chautauqua Opera. With over 25 years of experience in the field, among her additional roles and credits, she served as Production Manager for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival from 2010-2017.

Jennifer O'Kelly, Scenic Designer

Jennifer enjoys regional work with inventive theatre and dance companies and has been the lighting designer for CC&Co. since 2008. Regional credits from classics to experimental include; Rooms and AESTUO-Dogma Engine, Clara's Trip, A Goddess Tale, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Bus Stop, Dracula, Angels, Charlotte Dance Festival, Nutcracker, Misterioso, A Christmas Carol and The Scarlett Pimpernel for NC Shakespeare Festival, Alban Elved Dance Co., Caroline Calouche & Co., Clarence Brown Theatre, Winston-Salem Festival Ballet, and Triad Stage. She also enjoys art direction and production design for film and television including Shuffleton's Barbershop, The Shunning, The Confession, Juwana Mann, Having Our Say and Home of the Giants. Jennifer earned her MFA at UNCSA and operates Muse Scenic Studio in Winston-Salem, NC.

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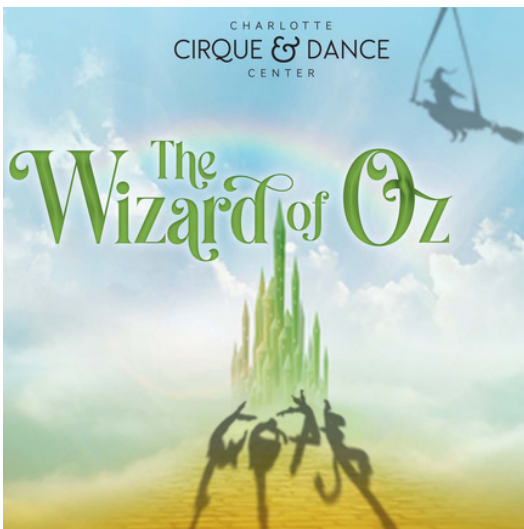
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Upcoming Events



April 27
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Circus & Dance Celebration



MAY 10 - 11 | TICKETS



SUMMER PROGRAMS