

Rouge



EXPECT THE
UNEXPECTED



Rouge

PRESENTED BY



Founder & Artistic Director **Caroline Calouche**

February 10

Fletcher Opera Theater at the Duke Energy Performing Arts Center | Raleigh

February 11

Greensboro Carolina Theater | Greensboro

February 17 - 19

Booth Playhouse at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center | Charlotte



PROGRAM NOTE

Welcome to the 8th 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.

2023 Artists & Collaborators

Juli Bierwirth

Dejarius 'DJ' Bright

Caroline Calouche

Jenna Ciotta

Malanah Hobgood

Rachael Houdek

Alex Oliva

Abbie Rooney

Shaun Wilson

Lighting and Scenic Designer: Jennifer O'Kelly

Stage Manager: Valerie Wheeler

Production Assistant: Shaun Wilson

Rigger: Morgan Calma

Aerial Apparatus Construction: Todd Spiering

Photos: Peter Zay

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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

Program Director Kristin Bridges
Student Company Director.....Nicole Muse-Dennis
Production Manager..... Shaun Wilson
Front Desk.....Tovi Martin and Jessica Himes

Faculty

Pauline Biahun, Kristin Bridges, Caroline Calouche, Carlos Alexis Cruz, Jessica Himes, Nicole Muse-Dennis, Phillip McRorie, Kian Pieters, Edie Pryll, Matt Sanchez, Sarah Small, Savannah Wilson, Shaun Wilson and Shay Yara

Board Members

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[CC&Co. Website](#)

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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 then 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 Gillaspy, 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...’

Abbie Rooney

Abbie is an aerialist and movement artist from the United States. Beginning with competitive gymnastics, to University of Colorado School of Engineering, to an international circus career; Abbie is an accomplished aerialist, dancer, acrobat and fire/prop manipulator. She attended Frequent Flyers Productions (aerial dance) Professional Training, developing her overall aerial technique. Originally a trapeze specialist, turned aerial straps fanatic. She has been seen dancing and flying high on National television, in large arenas, big top circuses, corporate events, theatrical productions, festival performances and doing acting/stunt/character work.



A few notable companies she has worked with include Carnival Cruises, On the Fly Productions, Meow Wolf, Cavalia Odysseo, T-Mobile, United Airlines, Quixotic Fusion, Fox Entertainment Group and many more. Currently, she is the female aerial trainer for 6 shows on Carnival Cruises' newest ship: developing choreography and training the casts that entertain crowds around the world.

Alex Oliva

Alex Oliva is a circus and movement artist based in Boston, MA. He specializes in aerial straps, Cyr wheel, and contemporary dance. Alex always seeks to push the boundaries of circus with captivating and innovative movement by combining elements from his gymnastics and dance background. He has performed with companies such as CirqOvation (Syracuse), Scarlett Entertainment (US/UK), House of Yes (NYC), Berber (San Francisco), and Taconhy Entertainment's "Circus on Ice" (US tour). Recently, Alex received awards for his straps and Cyr wheel acts in the San Diego Circus Festival, where he was also awarded the CircusTalk Spotlight Award. He is also excited to perform at the Karnidale Circus Festival in Australia in January 2023. He is in his fourth season as a dancer with contemporary dance group Urbanity Underground (Boston), where they put on several stage shows every year. Alex received his circus training under Michael Lanphear (Boston), Victor Fomine, Angelica Bongiovonni, and Eric Deschenes (Montreal). Prior to circus, he received training in contemporary and classical dance for 6 years, and in artistic gymnastics for 5 years.



Dejarius 'DJ' Bright

Dejarius or "Dj" Bright is a performer based in Charlotte Nc. His main skill set consists of Breakdancing, Ground Acrobatics and Hand Balancing. DJ performs and trains within a local troupe built from the ground up named "The Nouveau Sud Circus Project" and has been building with the company for over 8 years to date. Outside of the company he has both State and District Taekwondo sparring and forms championship titles, does stunt work for aspiring film makers and works closely with the hip hop dance community in charlotte. He aspires to share his knowledge and experience with his community to expose the arts within his community and give others the opportunity to explore the world of arts and culture.



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.



Juli Bierwirth

Juli is a circus instructor and performer based in Chapel Hill specializing in partner acrobatics, hand balancing and pole. She began her circus career at Leap Flying Trapeze School as a catcher where she taught and performed for three years. Shortly thereafter she took a position at Canopy Studio, a circus school in Athens, GA. In her eight year tenure at Canopy, Juli she performed partner acrobatics, hand balancing, pole and flying trapeze throughout the southeast US and in Central America. She has since moved to North Carolina and is currently based at Upside Aerial arts, traveling to work, train and perform with other acrobats.



Malanah Hobgood

Malanah Hobgood is a project-based dancer with 17+ years of experience working in Greensboro, NC. She is a company member with KT Collective under the direction of Kristin Duncan, recently performing at the Richmond Dance Festival. Additionally, Malanah is a collaborator at Theatre of Movement, founder Duane Cyrus, performing at the North Carolina Museum of Art and SECCA (Southeastern Center of Contemporary Art). She is trained in all forms of dance with a background in Ballet/Pointe, Modern, and Contemporary. She started her training at Charlotte Ballet, later Lake Norman Performing Arts, and then Queen City Youth Ballet. Additionally, she was an apprentice at Baran Dance 2 (Charlotte) and Bodiograpy Contemporary Dance Company (Pittsburgh). She received full scholarships at Charlotte Ballet, Lake Norman Performing Arts, Atlanta Ballet Summer Intensive, and La Roche College dance program.



Malanah's movement practice which also inspires her modeling explores the sensuality of the Black female body and themes around bodily autonomy, accessibility, and identity. She wants to incorporate Ballet, Modern, and African techniques into social dance environments.

Shaun Wilson

Coming all the way from sunny Melbourne, Florida (where NASA is located), Shaun Wilson now lives in Charlotte, NC and is a cheerleader gone dancer gone aerialist. With over 12 years of performance experience under his belt, he has trained in ballroom, jazz, hip-hop, gymnastics, and aerial arts. With a passion for teaching and sharing, Shaun has coached dance and tumbling at various dance centers, with students ranging from kindergartners to adults. In his free time, Shaun enjoys all types of outdoor activities, including skating, swimming, hiking, and kayaking. When he is not outside, he is either playing Mariokart or binge-watching Netflix dramas.



Jennifer O'Kelly

Jennifer O'Kelly, 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, Mysterioso, 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, Juwanna Mann, Having Our Say and Home of the Giants. Jennifer earned her MFA at UNCSA and operates Muse Scenic Studio in Winston-Salm, NC.



Valerie Wheeler

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.



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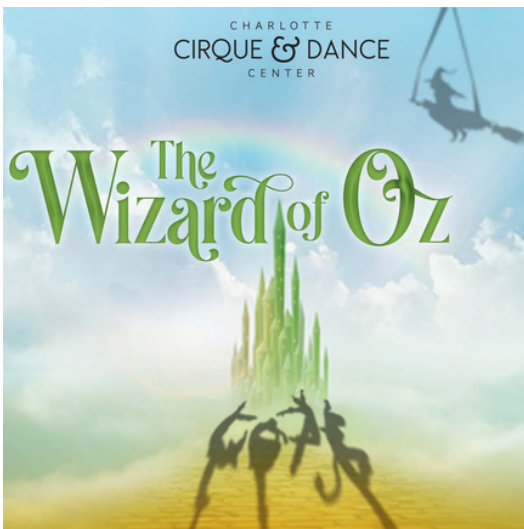
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Upcoming Events



MAY 4 - 6 | TICKETS



MAY 26 - 27 | TICKETS



SUMMER PROGRAMS