



Chrys Shipley

Aerialist-Contortionist

I am an aerialist and poet passionate about interdisciplinary work and have experience performing in ensemble, small group, and solo shows. When creating work, I explore questions about identity and how it can overlap with the form of circus while valuing accessibility for my audience. I have a passion for collaboration and research, which fuels my desire to find new ways circus can work with other art forms to tell stories.

Contact

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Location: London, UK

Education

National Centre for Circus Arts (2022-2025)

Studied anatomy, performance study, and theater classes. Trained in my specialty, rope, and group classes: conditioning, flexibility, acrobatics, and handstands.

New England Center for Circus Arts Pro Track Program (2021-2022)

Trained 40 hours a week and split my time between my specialty, rope, and group classes: conditioning, flexibility, tumbling, handstands, and juggling.

Coaching

Capitol City Circus (2022-2023)

Worked in their summer youth program at Capitol City Circus. Coached aerials for their beginner and advanced students and taught conditioning and flexibility to their advanced students. Taught recreational rope and trapeze classes to adults and taught private lessons.

Acronia Festival (2024)

Taught a range of adult vertical aerials workshops. Lead a foundations verticals aerials class, creativity in aerials workshop, and a c shaping workshop.

Performances

Scratch That Cabaret, Brighton Fringe
(Brighton, UK, 2025)

Six Degrees of Freedom directed by Neus Gil Cortez
(London, UK, 2025)

Drag Bug Winter Ball
(London, UK, 2024)

Speitelgig NCCA Scratch Night
(London, UK, 2024)

Acronia Gala Show
(Bad Sulza, DE, 2024)

No Future Directed by Sebastian Belmar
(London, UK, 2024)

Trains Directed by Michaela O'Connor
(London, UK, 2023)

East London Circus Hub Christmas Cabaret
(London, UK, 2023)

Small World Festival
(Headcorn, UK, 2023)

Skills

Aerials Rope, silks, hoop

Acrobatics Flow tumbling, contortion, handstands

Fire props Palm torches, fire fans

Artist in Residency

Cirklabo Blank Space Residency (Leuven, BE, 2024)

Created a performance that explored queerness through aerials, contortion, and poetry. Focused on researching how circus and text can be combined to create something new.