

Sean McIlraith - Circus Performance

087 338 4803

Sean.mcilraith95@gmail.com



I am an emerging circus artist in Ireland, specializing in Aerial silks and rope with a solid practice in straps, hand-balancing, movement and doubles acrobatic flying

Certs and Awards

- Rogelio Rivel Escuela de Circ – Certificate of Preparatory Course
- Ecole Nationale de Cirque de Montreal – Circus Instructor Certificate
- HP Applied Rigging Course 2021
- Arts Council of Ireland Awards- Travel and Train Award 2019
- Arts Council of Ireland Awards – Agility Award 2021 & 2022
- Arts Council of Ireland Awards- Professional Development 2020
- Arts Council of Ireland Awards – Circus Bursary 2020
- Youth Theatre Ireland Facilitator Course 2021/2022

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

RED LINES – Physical Theatre - Floor Acrobatics, Aerial Rope, Doubles Acrobatics and Aerial Acrobatics

February 2023

This show is a 2 woman doubles circus acrobatic and physical theatre show, created by myself and Monika Palova. As a pair we wrote, choreographed, produced and performed it for the first time at Scene + Heard Festival in the Smock Alley Theatre in 2023.

TO ODIN OFFERED – Aduantas Aerial Company – Aerial and Floor Acrobatics

August 2022

This site specific show was based in Kilruddery House in Bray. It is the story of Odin and his many forms. I was cast to portray Odin himself and performed a myriad of acts, from doubles floor acrobatics with shadow puppets, to performing aerial silks over an idyllic pond. It was an outdoor show, where the audience walked through the grounds and followed me along my journey to finding enlightenment and ultimately my sacrifice to myself. This show ran for 2 nights and sold out for both.

WILD ROOTS FESTIVAL – Sligo, Ireland – Aerial Silks

3-5 June 2022

This was an outdoor silks performance on the Fidget Feet rig in Sligo's music and arts festival. It was a cabaret style performance with other international and locally based artists. It was a double bill show featuring burlesque, aerial and fire dance. The festival's capacity was 12,000 people and ran all weekend.

OTHER PERFORMANCE

Rogelio Rivel Escuela de Circ – Circus School – Barcelona, Spain

44th Assaig de Circ – 44th Student Showcase

September 2018 – July 2019

This was my first performance ever on aerial rope. It was a student showcase in my school in Barcelona where I trained fulltime in all circus arts. Specialising in rope and fabrics. The performance was a mix of solo acts and group ensembles, where we got to put all our hard work of the year into an hour long show.

Culture Night 2020 – Aerial Rope Solo Performance

September 2020

This was a live digital screening of solo circus acts. This project was a 3 month creative intensive named CREATE, it focused on learning and unlocking artistic creation techniques, and ultimately creating an act. I was fortunate to work directly with Shane

Holohan, who owns a PHD in artistic development in circus artists.

It allowed me to perform in the depths of the Covid-19 pandemic, even though in person performance disappeared for a while. This piece was based on the innocence and dream like state of childhood. It was highly influenced by fairytales, in particular Peter Pan.

Taking Flight: Aerial and Acrobatics— Manager of Performance (Part-Time) – Dublin, Ireland

March 2019 – Currently

This is where I had my introduction to teaching aerial rope and silks with teens and adults, and gave me the space in Ireland to train full time as an artist and coach in the hours that we aren't teaching. I have recently been made Director of Performance and am involved in expanding the business to giving professionals a space to share and create performances, as well as working with the community with school shows and performances and will start working in tandem with our community director to create inclusive shows. Here I specialize in creative mentorship and acting as an outside eye to others creating works, guiding them through the creative process and helping them with a neutral perspective.

Culture Night 2021 Performance – Aerial Silks 'GROUND'

17 September 2021

This performance was my first in more than 2 years in front of a breathing audience. The piece was part of a 9-act cabaret, where I closed the show with my piece called 'GROUND'. It was an exploration of weightlessness and freedom. Embodying the feeling of flying and pure ecstatic buoyancy. I wanted to share how aerial makes you feel on top of the world. The show was projected onto Bus Aras in Dublin city centre on Culture Night as a way to bring the arts back in a socially distanced way to Dublin's streets, as well as a 175 person live audience.

Jam Sessions – Artistic Residency – Public Showing and Short Film Creation

13 September – 1 October 2021

This was my first attempt at creating, choreographing and directing my own project. It was a collaborative piece combining aerial, music, hand-to-hand and floor movement to tell the story of possession and animalism that has existed in humans throughout history in reference to music and dance. I worked closely with Zar Acoustic, a multifaceted one-man band, and an incredible dance film maker Kristian Montevalanos. This project took me so far in so many directions, such as filming movement, location scouting, choreographing 2 bodies in space and beginning to understand the concepts of lighting, mood and stage management. We filmed our final piece in early February 2022 and am waiting for the final edit. We also performed our original composition and choreography live for the public in Taking Flight in Phibsborough and Petit Volant in Sandyford.

Petit Volant Aerial Showcase – Aerial Rope Act – DREAM PUPPY

26 March 2022

This showcase was put together by Mari Rampazzo to showcase local Irish circus talent to the public and locally based companies. The show consisted of 10 acts, ranging from hula hoop to fire breathing and aerial arts. My piece was a development of my earliest rope act, refined, refurbished and renewed.

PHIZZ FEST 2022 – Aerial Rope and Doubles Rope

14 May 2022

This show was created and directed by myself, as a contribution to the PhizzFest 2022. A local Phibsborough festival, aimed to bring the community together and show the public all the arts that are on offer in their vicinity. This was my first show where I directed and planned everything from start to finish, outside of personal projects. The night was filled with live music and aerial dance. I performed my rope act and then performed my first doubles rope act with my doubles partner Monika Palova. This was performed to a crowd of 150 people

CULTURE NIGHT 2022 – WOOD QUAY AMPHITHEATRE CABARET - PRODUCER

September 2022

This was my first ever job as a full producer. In collaboration with Dublin City Council and Culture Night Dublin, we created an outdoor cabaret hosting some of Dublin's most talented circus artists. My role was everything from rigging logistics, artist management, health and safety regulation, time management, equipment hire and insurance acquisition. It is a role I learned so much from and know it will give me insight into producing my own shows in the future.