

Exist Cast Bios



Cirque Roots



Cirque Roots Productions & Studio is a grassroots artist collective that was founded in 2011 with a vision to inspire the community to create and play through movement and dance. The founders, Brittany Briley, Zoë Anderson, and Stephanie Cortes are highly educated in professions outside of the arts (nursing, film/marketing, physics & astronomy) which support their creative ability. The three owners have experience in production, direction, film, choreography, dance & movement, and empowering the community. Based in a 1910's adobe warehouse in downtown Tucson located near Dunbar Springs and Barrio Anita, Cirque Roots created a space for the community to engage in circus inspired arts and to co-create through conscious events and workshops. The Cirque Roots performance crew has been performing collectively over the past six years and was nominated for a 2015 Lumies Award: Best Arts Organization.

The performance company consists of roughly 25 artists with a core advanced team of about 10 artists. The trained skills of the company include stilt walking, stilt dancing, stilt acrobatics, partner acrobatics, aerial arts, hoop dance, prop manipulation, juggling, unicycling, fire dancing, MCing, clowning, and character work. Cirque Roots was recently awarded the New Works grant from The Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona for their sixth production, "Exist: Messengers of the Cosmos." In addition to producing their own work, Cirque Roots gets hired throughout the year for all different types of events, ranging from birthday parties to high-end corporate events to collaborating with other production companies in their works. Cirque Roots frequently collaborates with local artists to create the best possible experience for the audience.

Natalie Brewster Nguyen

Space Ambassador/Narrator

<http://nataliebrewsternguyen.com>



Natalie Brewster Nguyen is a multi-disciplinary performance and installation artist, writer, actor, movement artist, educator, and musician. She is passionate about social justice, community living, acroyoga, adrenaline sports, and radical co-parenting. Her writing and poetry have been published in several anthologies and she is now working on the poetic and scientific narrative of EXIST, with Cirque Roots. She currently performs and creates with Flight School Acrobatics, Cirque Roots, Borderlands Theater, and Taproot Productions in Tucson, AZ. Elsewhere, notable collaborators include acclaimed experimental performance art troupe La Pocha Nostra, Ni'ja Whitson, Charlie Levin, Sway, Larry Bogad, Andrea Zittlau and Emiliano Leonardi. She has been blessed to collaborate with some of the most brilliant minds in many artistic fields, and has shared the stage with Marina Abramovic, Margaret Cho, Guillermo Gomez-Peña, Deborah Harry and other very exciting people. Someday, she hopes to be able to get away with as much as they do.

Her work can be found here:

Full CV: <http://nataliebrewsternguyen.com/cv/>

Stephanie Cortes

Alien Star Being



Stephanie is a co-founder, co-owner, and artistic director of Cirque Roots Studio and Productions. Stephanie has choreographed many shows for the past four years, and performed for a variety of audiences and venues. Modern hoop dance has been her primary performance art, however her excitement and interests has led to an expansion of skills including fire dance, stilt dance, and acrobatics. She has learned from many amazing circus and performance artists throughout the world, and has developed her own unique style. In her spare time, she teaches astronomy at Pima Community College and works as a freelancer in image analysis and computer programming for a tech company in Tucson. Her passion is simply to inspire creativity, confidence, and happiness.

Zoë Rae

Alien Star Being



Zoë is a dynamic performer of dance, physical theater, flow arts, partner acrobatics, and fire spinning. She has been performing that past 8 years with Cirque Roots Tucson, AZ and around the US. Pulling from her strong base for movement from Zoë's childhood she took dance for 4 years with Barbea Williams Dance Company (ballet, jazz, West African, & hip-hop). She now integrates her use of stilt-dance, stilt-acrobatics, hula hooping, fire flow props (rope dart, hoop, orbital/zip poi, fans, palms) and partner-acrobatics in her performances. As Co-Founder of Cirque Roots Productions and Studio, a grass-roots circus arts collective, Zoë performs at 2-5 times a month, teaches hula-hooping, and has Co-produced in 3 original Cirque Roots productions (sold-out shows), she continues to collaborate with her circus troupe to create new and elaborate works that inspire audiences.

Brittany Briley
Alien Star Being



Brittany Briley, a.k.a "B Town," is one of the co-founders, co-owners and co-directors of downtown Tucson's Cirque Roots Studio and productions. Brittany has been a performer most of her life including many years of professional figure skating at a young age, a dancer and even a diver for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock during her college years. Brittany's love of dance and performing led her to circus arts and through that she discovered the beautiful art of stilt dance and acrobatics. Brittany has performed nationally and internationally on her stilts and is excited to share her knowledge of basic stilt walking, stilt dance and acrobatics with everyone!