

***New to aerial arts? Love it? Great! Thinking of rigging your own space?...***

**10 Good Reasons Why New Aerialists Should Think Carefully Before Rigging:**

**Endorsed By:**

ACE (American Circus Educators Association)

AirCraft Aerial Arts

Aloft Circus Arts

Bumbershoot Aerial Arts

Canopy Studio

Circus Arts Institute

Diamond Family Circus

D'Air Project

Elevation Aerial & Circus Arts

Esh Circus Arts

Firefly Theatre and Circus

Heliummm Aerial Dance

Monica's Danz Gym

New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA)

Overhead Arts

Philadelphia School of Circus Arts

SHOW Circus Studio

Versatile Arts

Wise Fool

- 1) Safety. While the aerial community works hard to keep aerial arts safe, the reality is that people can be seriously injured and even die practicing aerial.
- 2) Liability Risk. Rigging your own space means you are personally taking on substantial liability risk. If anyone is injured in your space, they or their next of kin can sue you.
- 3) Training in the studio with an instructor and other students means you never have to train alone. Even highly trained aerialists should NEVER PRACTICE ALONE. It's important that there always be at least one other person present to help if there is an accident and to call 911.
- 4) Rigging is a skill in itself. Only trained riggers are qualified to assess the load bearing capacity of a roof or potential rigging points. If you want to learn how to rig, study rigging! If not, consult a reputable rigger.
- 5) Injury prevention. Practicing in safe conditions will help you avoid injuries so that you can practice for many years and ultimately become a stronger aerialist.
- 6) Practicing in unsafe conditions not only is dangerous for you as an individual, but it actually harms the entire field of aerial arts. More accidents leads to higher liability risk associated with aerial arts and increasingly higher costs for insuring aerial arts. High risk and high cost prevents people from offering classes and performances.
- 7) Give yourself time to develop. Having your own equipment and rig does not alone make you a stronger aerialist. Training extensively with experienced instructors does make you a stronger aerialist, whether or not you have your own rig.
- 8) There are excellent ways to cross train for aerial outside the studio from running and swimming to crunches and pull-ups.
- 9) Protect your good reputation. People in the field of aerial arts will respect you more if you help uphold aerial safety standards.
- 10) Aerial is about community! As a community, we spot each other, we nudge each other on to do that one extra pull-up, we take care of each other's rope burns and give hugs and encouragement and suggestions. Help us keep our community safe and supportive for everyone.

***HAPPY & SAFE TRAINING!***