

Wonderson: Info & Technical Details

The Short and Sweet Version

- What we do is beautiful, but it takes a lot of preparation. Please contact us at least 4 weeks prior to your event. Or contact us as soon as possible regarding a rush performance.
- What we do is thrilling, but it is also extremely physically demanding. A typical performance lasts from 5 to 15 minutes. Multiple performances need to be spaced at least 45 minutes apart.
- What we do is safe, but it requires venues that have usable rigging points and ample floor space. Please be sure to inquire with the venue if they can accommodate aerialists.
- What we do looks death defying and so each performer carries a \$3,000,000 performer's liability insurance policy.
- What we do makes people smile, so please contact us if you have any questions.

Wonderson
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Performance Style & Apparatus

Wonderson specializes in aerial apparatus and floor acrobatics. The apparatus we currently perform on are Aerial Silks, Aerial Hammock, Static Trapeze and combinations of two or more of these apparatus. We can also perform solo or as partners on any of the apparatus. We highly recommend a raised stage for floor acrobatics.

Since it is such a physically demanding art form, a typical performance lasts from about 5-15 minutes and is typically spaced at least 30 minutes apart.

Aerial Silks:

Most people associate aerial silks with the long red material that Cirque Du Soleil performers use. Aerial silks are a high tensile fabric hung from a single point on the ceiling so that two strands, "tails", of material hang down to touch the floor.

Aerial Silks performances can range from graceful dance expressions to jaw dropping rolls, dives, spins and drops. Wonderson performs solo pieces with just one performer and one set of silks, as partners with two performers on one set of silks, or as a duo with two performers each on their own silks.

Aerial silks requires a minimum of 16 feet from floor to connection point, but ceilings greater than 20 feet allow for more exciting choreography. There should be a minimum of 10 feet of open space in all directions from the connection point from floor to ceiling.

Aerial Hammock:

Aerial hammock uses the same material as aerial silks, but the apparatus is rigged so that it hangs like a hammock. Don't worry, there's nothing drowsy about this performance style. The hammock configuration means that the performer doesn't have to support their weight all the time allowing for different and longer performances.

Aerial hammock performances can have just as much expressiveness and athleticism as aerial silks. They can also be used for ambient, atmospheric performances. In an ambient performance performers take advantage of the supportiveness of the hammock and move from one stunning pose to another all while suspended in the air. These ambient performances can last as long as 15 minutes. Wonderson can present solo, partner or duo aerial hammock performances.

Aerial hammocks require a minimum of 12 feet from floor to connection point. There should be a minimum of 10 feet of open space in all directions from the connection point from floor to ceiling.

Static Trapeze:

Static trapeze is performed on a steel trapeze bar that hangs still from one or two connection points. This is not the flying trapeze, with all the swinging, flying and falling into nets. In fact, the hope of the static trapeze performer is to keep the bar perfectly still while they swing, hang, spin, roll, twist and balance.

Static trapeze lends itself more to expressive dance movements, complex puzzle piece shapes of body, steel and rope, as well as positions of strength and daring. Wonderson presents solo performances as well as partner performances with stunning hand to hand stunts that push the limits of physics and trust.

Solo static trapeze requires a minimum of 12 feet from floor to connection point. Partner static trapeze requires at least 16 feet from floor to ceiling. There should be a minimum of 10 feet of open space in all directions from the connection point from floor to ceiling.

Acrobalance:

Acrobalance, sometimes called acroyoga, is a floor performance in which performers themselves become the apparatus as they climb, counterbalance and support their own bodies on top of each other.

This performance is typically choreographed at a slow, dramatic pace. No special venue requirements are needed, but an elevated stage of at least 18 inches is highly recommended.

MUSIC, CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMES

Wonderson will make all effort to match music, choreography and costumes to each event, be it a sultry lounge theme, an elegant wedding or a playful vaudeville show. The material used for Aerial silks and aerial hammocks come in a wide variety of colors and can be selected to match your theme.

Please contact Wonderson as early as possible for requests for a specific look and feel. Depending on the scope of the event additional fees may apply.

RIGGING, VENUES AND SAFETY

Wonderson maintains the utmost respect for the safety of its performers, the event's guests and the venue's structure. While Wonderson will do everything within reason to make an event work, safety comes first. Please keep in mind that many venues have rules about rigging aerialists, please make sure to check with the venue or contact us to learn more.

There is a whole science to connecting aerial apparatus (and thus the performers) to the ceiling. Some buildings lend themselves to it and others just aren't designed for it. The typical rule of thumb is that the connection point and all of the apparatus connected to that point needs to be strong enough to hold 2,000 lbs. for most acts. Exposed steel beams are the best, some wood beams work but many don't and trees require thorough inspection by a trained rigger. If your event does not have access to steel beams read below about our portable rig.

Wonderson will provide basic rigging equipment, tools and apparatus including spansets, carabiners, swivel, and rescue 8's.

- Rigging points must be located on a structural support such as I-beams, girders, trussing, cranes, bar or cross beam, etc and must be rated to support at least 2000 lbs. for most acts. If such a rigging point is not available then please ask us about a portable rig.
- The rigging points need to have safe rigging access to the structure (catwalk, powered lift or ladder).
- No lights, pipes, sprinklers, furniture, signs, balloons, within a 10 foot diameter of aerial equipment from floor to ceiling
- Basic installation takes about 60 minutes per apparatus.

Please note: although we are trained to rig our own equipment and have liability insurance, we are not a licensed rigging company. Typically larger venues will require a licensed and insured rigger. Please check with your venue.

A portable rig is available. This rig meets all industry standards and is trusted by many elite performers. The rig is 18 feet high and has a footprint of approximately 20 feet by 20 feet. The portable rig can be set up indoors or outdoors.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Each performer carries a performer's liability insurance policy through Specialty Insurance Agency, which covers:

- Each Occurrence: \$3,000,000
- Damage to Rented Premises: \$100,000
- Personal & Advertising Injury: \$3,000,000
- General Aggregate: \$5,000,000
- Products – Completed Op. Aggregate: \$5,000,000
- Medical Expenses: \$5,000

Insurance provider can fax rider including venue in coverage free of charge, with 48 business hours advanced notice. Performers also carry personal health insurance.

EVENT PRICING AND CONTRACT

Wonderson can provide a general contract that states the agreements and responsibilities of Wonderson and the client.

Please contact Wonderson for further details on pricing. Every event and every venue is different. In general pricing is broken up into three categories, a one time booking fee, a per hour rigging fee and a performer fee.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The booking fee will be fully refunded if Wonderson is not physically able to complete the performance due to travel restrictions, physical disability, or personal reasons.

Wonderson reserves the right to cancel the performance if they are concerned with the safety of the performers or the guests for whatever reason. If the performance is canceled due to safety concerns, then 50% of the booking fee will be refundable.

If cancellation is made with more than 2 weeks before the performance, the booking fee is refundable minus a \$50 admin fee. The booking fee is non-refundable within 2 weeks of the performance.

OTHER PERFORMERS

In addition to aerial performers, Wonderson also works with many other entertainers, and can book the whole package for your event.

- LED hula hoop dancers
- LED and flag poi spinners
- Belly dancers
- Burlesque performers
- Outlandish, surreal characters
- Martial artists, tumblers and gymnasts
- Chinese lion dance
- Make-up artists
- Costume designers
- Photographers and Videographers

Please contact us regarding any questions you might have.

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